Just CrossStitch 2009 Special Christmas Issue
Christmas Ornaments
75 Projects
from your favorite designers!
h.o.p.e.
God bless us every one
Christmas
2009
Christmas Ornaments 2009
$8.99 CANADA
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Snow wishes
MERRY
PEACE
Glory to the newborn King

Let It Snow

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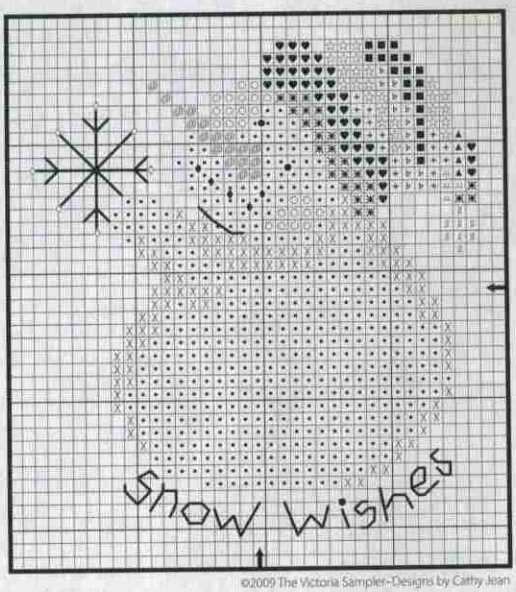
    Angel of Hope

The Victoria Sampler-Designs by Cathy Jean

Cathy Coombes

"This pudgy little snowman, with his knitted stocking hat, is holding up a sparkly snowflake in honor of everyone hoping for snow to fall this year. We don't get snow very often here on the west coast; when we do, we love watching our grandchildren, who, after their noses have been pressed against the window waiting, finally build their snowmen. It's so much fun!

I wish you all a very merry snowy Christmas. Our family loves these little olive cheese balls—we can never make enough."



©2009 The Victoria Sampler–Designs by Cathy Jean

Snow Wishes

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

♥	0360 (221)	cranberry
•	1140 (3866)	oatmeal
☆	0470 (676)	buttercrunch
X[	1140 (3865)	oatmeal
	1020 (648)	pebble
○[	1140 (3865)	oatmeal
	0830 (3713)	Highland heather
✳	0380 (3722)	raspberry parfait
@	0550 (721)	burnt orange
♭	0910 (3768)	peacock
bs	1030 (646)	banker's gray

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	7004 (930)	Brethren blue
▲	7050 (3362)	baby spinach
+	7020 (677)	butternut squash
ш	7003 (320)	shutter green

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

bs	1303 (3799)	charcoal

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

ss	032	pearl
	W88	white (turkey knot)

Rainbow Gallery Wisper

SJ Designs Seed Beads

◆	11002	black

SJ Designs Petite Seed Beads

◊	1818	silver

Mill Hill Size 8 Glass Seed Beads

●	18002	midnight

Just Another Button Company™

1193.T	tiny Mr. Cardinal

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count raw linen Cashel® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 39H x 35W
Design size: $2^{7}/_{8}$" x $2^{1}/_{2}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each color.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work French knot where ● appears in lettering, using two strands 1303 and wrapping floss around needle twice.

Work straight stitch (ss) for snowflake, using one strand 032 and one strand W88.

Work turkey knot, using one strand W88. (***Note:*** *Begin with bottom row and work toward top. Work every row from left to right.*) Trim loops to create plush effect for snowball.

Attach beads, using one strand of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Attach button, using two strands of coordinating floss and referring to photo for placement.

Photo is on page 8.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:
1030 chin
1303 lettering

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Stitched piece was finished with a single-fold hem and was joined to pillow ornament using a blanket stitch and two strands The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™ #0440 maple syrup floss. Model was embellished with four branch buttons from The Victoria Sampler–Designs by Cathy Jean. Hanger was made by twisting black wire around a pencil and secured with tacking stitches.

The Victoria Sampler–Designs by Cathy Jean, 8700 Aldous Terrace, Sidney, BC V8L 1L2 Canada
cathy@victoriasampler.com
www.victoriasampler.com

See page 105 for **Olive Cheese Balls** recipe.

Primrose Needleworks

Elizabeth C. Gorski

"This year's ornament design was inspired by *Just CrossStitch* readers. In response to last year's design, "Yule Rejoice," which featured a girl skating, I received letters from stitchers who shared their own skating memories. The letters, all different in tone, contained a common thread. The same question kept popping up—do you plan to stitch a skating couple?

I hadn't planned on it. I'm a wobbly amateur skater with no pairs skating experience. How could I design a skating couple? And then it dawned on me—I needed professional help. I called my friend Cindy, an expert skater who lives in Boston and has trained on the competition level.

When Cindy lived in NYC years ago, she and Paul, her skating partner, would practice in the early-morning hours in Central Park's Wollman Rink. I loved watching them glide to the music across the ice with the wintry New York skyline sparkling in the background.

That magical memory—dormant for so many years—was revived, thanks to the stitchers who wrote in about last year's ornament. I dedicate "Skating in Central Park" to those stitchers whose kind words prompted a re-connection with my dear friend, Cindy. ❞

Skating in Central Park

The Gentle Art Simply Wool™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

◐	0390W (150)	buckeye scarlet
@	1050W (535)	soot (one strand)
☆	7059W (782)	pumpkin pie

	DMC®	Anchor®	
▲	561	212	jade, vy. dk.
•	712	926	cream
#	909	923	emerald green, vy. dk.
○	913	204	Nile green, med.
■	310	403	black
«	3772	1007	desert sand, vy. dk.
~	945	881	tawny

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 32-count prairie grain linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 66H x 67W
Design size: 4 1/8" x 4 1/4"

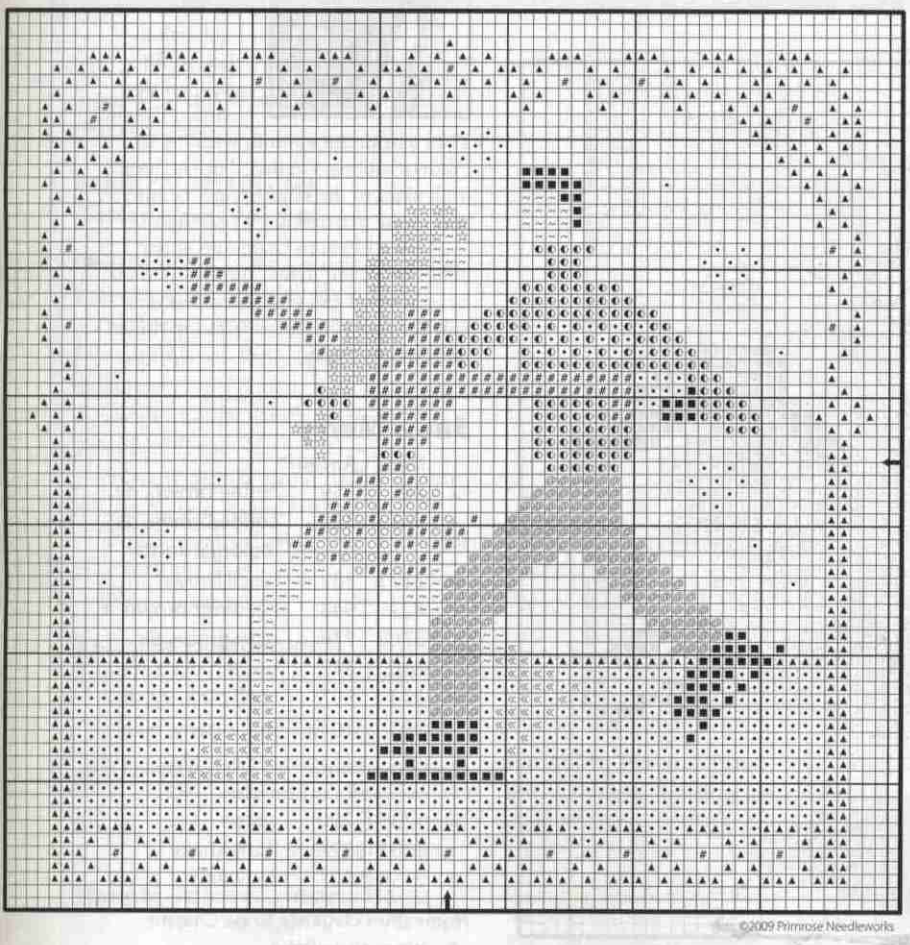
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Photo is on page 8.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Hanger was made using purchased gold cording.

Primrose Needlework, 420 Riverside Drive, Apartment 10-G, New York, NY 10025; *egorski333@gmail.com*; *www.primroseneedleworks.com*

See page 104 for **Snow-Topped Shortbread** recipe.



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THE STITCHERS' VILLAGE
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DISCOVER, PLAY, AND HAVE FUN!

A wonderful place in cyberspace where the village shops are portals to real live LNSs and ONSs. Where embroiderers, needlepointers, quilters and anyone who wields a needle in the name of stitching can come to find out about all that is new and exciting in the stitching world.

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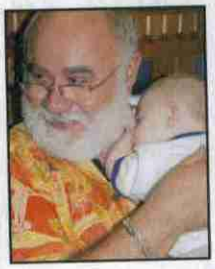
www.stitchersvillage.com

Mosey 'n Me

Frank and Judy Bielec



"Many thoughts come to mind when Christmas is the subject. There are gatherings with family and friends, the hustle and bustle of the season, and, naturally, Santa. Frank and I are new grandparents. Frank decided to grow a beard so Mason Thomas could have a "real" Santa for his first Christmas. Mason is such a sweet child, which we are sure is attributed to his parents Matt and Summer. We are once again looking forward to Christmas, and this year, Mason will be mobile—it's going to be such fun!"

Rejoice

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

⊗	1121 (738)	straw
3	1233 (3790)	cocoa
@	1302 (645)	pelican gray
☆	2220 (783)	curry

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

bs	7046 (918)	weathered barn

	Anchor®	DMC®	
•	2	blanc	white
■	403	310	black

Mill Hill Antique Seed Beads

○	03015	snow white

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count dirty linen Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 64H x 60W

Design size: 4" x 3¾"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear for eye, using one strand of floss.

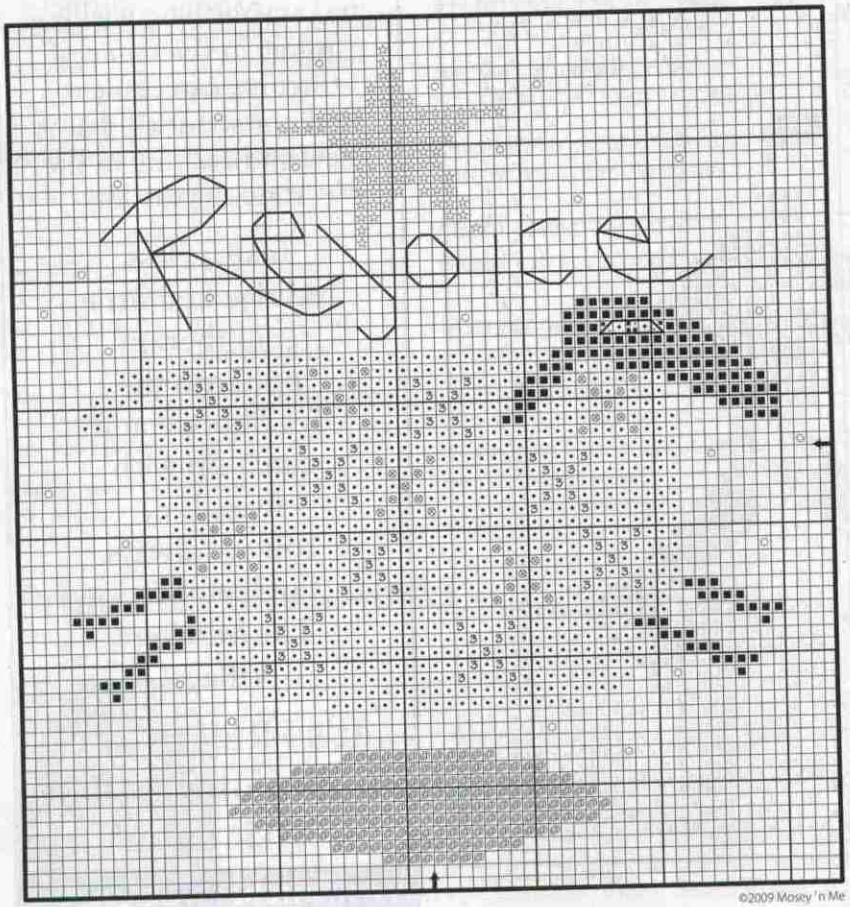
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Attach beads, using two strands 2/ blanc and a cross stitch.

Photo is on page 9.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

2	blanc	eye
7046		lettering



©2009 Mosey 'n Me

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Model was embellished by adding one Mill Hill #03015 snow white antique seed bead to every other whipstitch. Hanger was made using purchased twine.

Mosey 'n Me, 1436 Baird Avenue, Katy, TX 77493
moseynme2000@aol.com; www.moseynme.com

See page 103 for **Sour Cream Poundcake** recipe.

Homespun Elegance

Sandra Sullivan

"This year, we have an addition to our family—a wonderful son-in-law, who is a fabulous chef. Hollis and Paul were married October 17 in a beautiful autumn wedding in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The ceremony took place in the same church Lehmer and I were married in 39 years ago.

I asked Paul to share one of his delicious baked items, and this is what he gave me. I can guarantee that this will become your favorite pumpkin bread recipe."

Snow Merry

	DMC®	Anchor®	
▲	801	359	coffee brown, dk.
●	801	359	coffee brown, dk. (colonial knot)
■	3371	382	black brown
☾	422	943	hazelnut brown, lt.
○	3768	779	gray green, dk.
☆	830	277	golden olive, dk.
◐	221	897	shell pink, vy. dk.
ss	301	1049	mahogany, med.

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	1233 (3790)	cocoa
•	1101 (822)	light khaki
£	2159 (500)	seaweed

Homespun Elegance Brass Charms

◆ brass snowflake

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the CARON collection

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 28-count mockingbird hand-dyed linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 44H x 44W
Design size: 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work straight stitch (ss), using two strands of floss.

Work colonial knot to fill rabbit's tail, using two strands 801/359.

Attach charm, using one strand of coordinating floss.

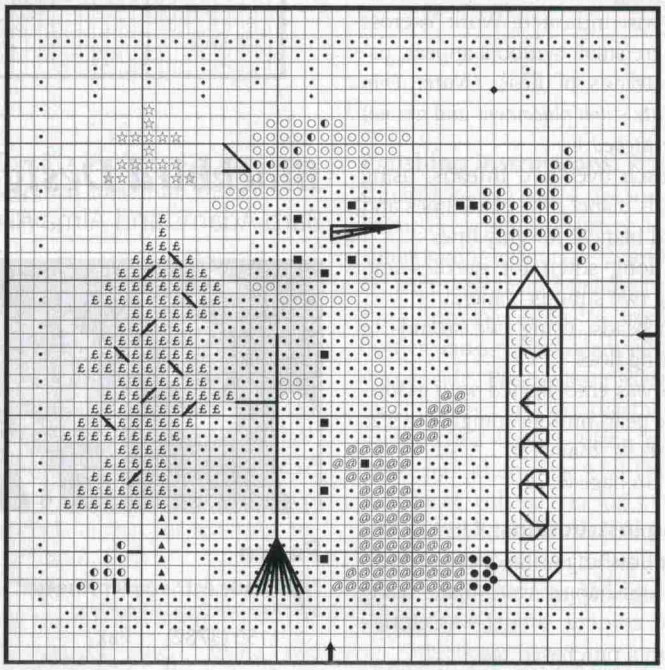
Photo is on page 8.

Backstitch instructions:

1101		detail on tree (one strand)
1223		snowman's right arm
221	897	ribbon on hat
801	359	broom handle
3371	382	beak and legs on small bird; lettering; banner

Straight-stitch (ss) instructions:

422	943	broom
301	1049	snowman's nose



©2009 Homespun Elegance

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger made using DMC® 712 and 842.

Homespun Elegance, Post Office Box 714, Fredericksburg, VA 22404-0714
stitching@homespunelegance.com
www.homespunelegance.com

See page 102 for **Pumpkin Bread** recipe.

Sue Hillis Designs

Sue Hillis

"This is a recipe that I have recently discovered, and my family loves it! It would be a wonderful addition to a breakfast buffet, and the lemon flavor is a nice blend with the usual breakfast menu. It's easy to make!"

Peace 2009

	DMC®	Presencia®	
○	blanc	1000	white
@	blanc	1000	white (three strands)

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

●	00479	white

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 28-count natural brown undyed linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 67H x 51W
Design size: 4 7/8" x 3 2/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss unless otherwise indicated. Work 3/4 cross stitch where small symbols appear, using two strands of floss. (***Note:*** *Thin lines indicate stitch placement and are not to be backstitched.*)

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands blanc/2 for black lines and one strand blanc/2 for gray lines.

Work long stitch for needles and star, using two strands blanc/2.

Attach beads, using two strands of coordinating floss.

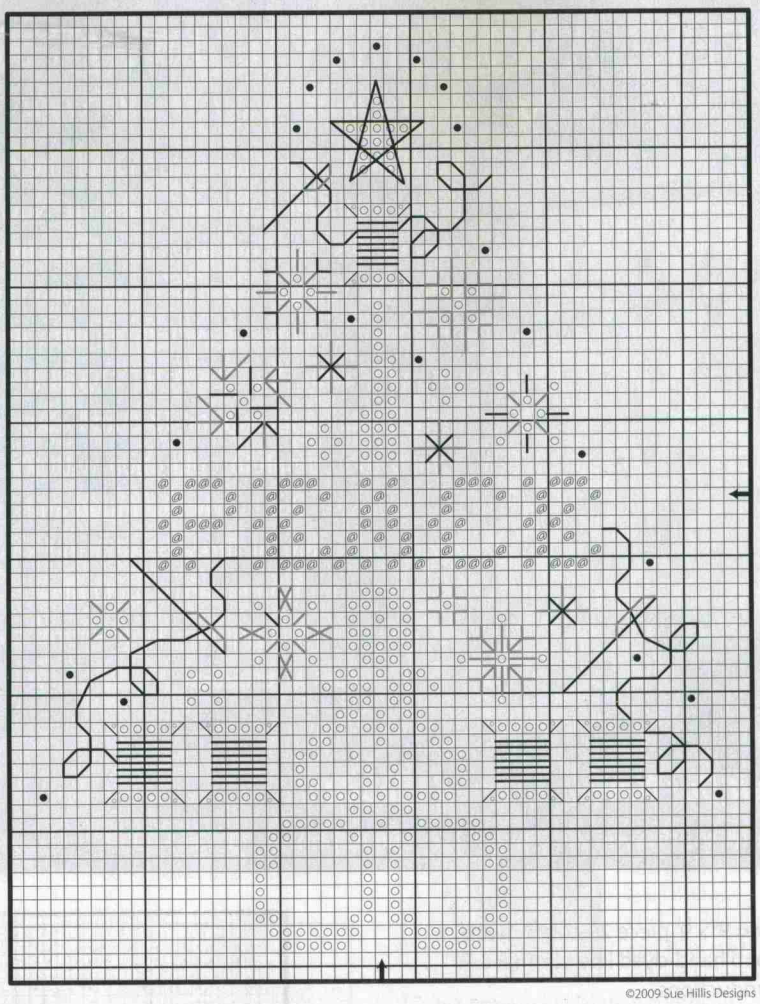
Model was embellished with assorted vintage pearl buttons, ranging in size from 1/4" to 3/8" diameter.

Photo on page 8.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger were made using purchased cording. Model was embellished with a purchased tassel.

Sue Hillis Designs, 11610 Busy Street, Richmond, VA 23236; *suehillisdesigns@aol.com*
www. suehillisdesigns.net

See page 105 for **Lemon Pull-Aparts** recipe.



©2009 Sue Hillis Designs

Blackbird Designs

Barb Adams and Alma Allen

"When we travel, we bring along cookies. Oatmeal raisin cookies are a favorite. This recipe uses dried tart cherries, which bring bright flavor to these favorites. Bake a batch of these to eat on your trip "over the river and through the woods" to Grandma's house."

Peace

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

○	1150 (3782)	flax

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	7014 (3722)	antique rose
?	7032 (169)	aged pewter

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

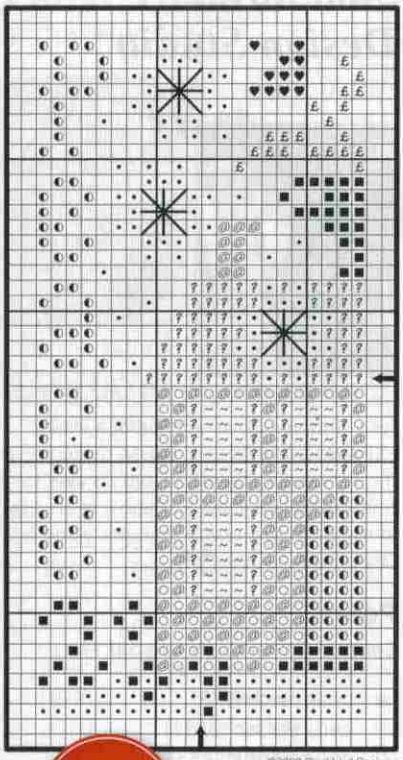
◐	1296 (926)	dolphin
■	1302 (645)	pelican gray
•	1109 (712)	angel hair

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

~	buttercrunch (ecru)
£	pea pod (831)
♥	red currant (902)

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 30-count creek bed linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 45H x 22W
Design size: 3" x 1/2"



©2009 Blackbird Designs

KIT
See page 106.

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work Algerian-eye stitch over six threads where ✱ appears, using two strands 1109.

Photo is on page 9.

Finishing materials and instructions:

- One Wide Tin Pin rectangle (#TF10) from Twisted Threads
- 5" x 4" coordinating scrapbook paper
- PVA glue
- Small sponge brush
- 2 yds. Bucilla #7115 burgundies 7mm silk ribbon
- 2 2¼"-diameter silver ring findings
- 13 6mm jingle bells
- 3" x 1½" piece mat board
- 3" x 1½" thin quilt batting

Press stitched piece from back, straightening as much as possible. (***Note:*** *Do not use steam as hand-dyed colors may run.*) Trim pieces to 1" from stitched edge. Place stitched piece wrong-side down atop batting and mat board; fold stitched piece over mat board and lace to secure.

Cut decorative paper to fit frame. Using a small sponge brush, lightly coat frame with PVA glue. Align paper over frame and press to smooth, overlapping edges of frame and pressing edges of paper into inside of frame. Allow to dry completely. Glue one silver ring finding to top and bottom of frame. Thread ribbon through top and tie for hanger. Using remaining ribbon, loop into bows and attach to bottom ring. Thread bells onto six strands of The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads #7014 antique rose; attach to bottom ring, referring to photo.

Using sponge brush, apply a small amount of glue to wrong side of stitched piece and position in frame; allow to dry.

Blackbird Designs, 11065 West 175th Street, Olathe, KS 66062; *alma@blackbird-designs.com*
www.blackbird-designs.com

See page 100 for **Cherry Oatmeal Cookies** recipe.

Blue Ribbon Designs

Belinda Karls-Nace

"One of my favorite crafts during the holiday season is to make cinnamon-scented ornaments. These ornaments are fun and easy to make, and, as an added bonus, they make your home smell absolutely marvelous. Use them to decorate your tree, tie them on gifts, or string them in wreaths and garland for the perfect homemade touch."

Merry Wishes

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

◐	3860 (902)	crimson
☆	2220 (3820)	curry
@	2264 (815)	garnet
☾	2237 (433)	hazelnut
■	1279 (890)	holly
X	2156 (367)	hunter

Fabric: Two 8" x 8" pieces 32-count latte Country French linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 65H x 51W
Design size: 4⅛" x 3¼"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work ¾ cross stitch for small symbols in birds' beaks, using two strands 2237. Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear for lettering, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads for border, using two strands 3860.

Work straight stitch, using two strands of floss.

Photo is on page 9.

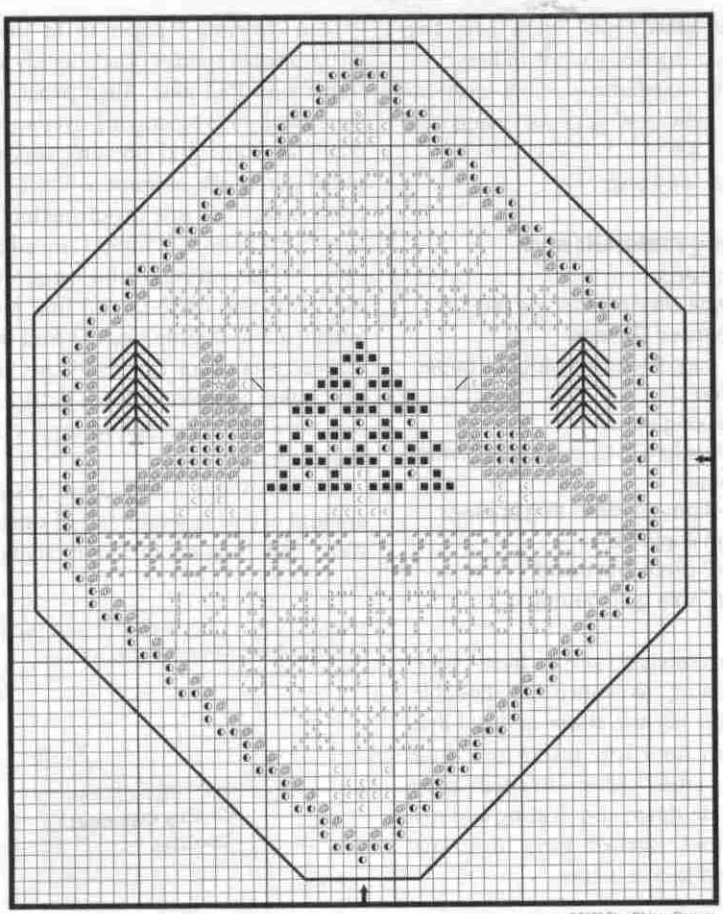
Straight-stitch instructions:

1279	branches
2237	tree trunks (gray lines)

Finishing instructions: Repeat backstitched border on a second piece of linen. Press stitched pieces from back, straightening as much as possible. (***Note:*** *Do not use steam as hand-dyed colors may run.*) Trim pieces to ¼" from stitched border. Finger press seam allowance to wrong side. Place wrong sides of ornament together and lace together through backstitched border, using one strand 3860 and adding one Mill Hill #02099 ruby bead with each lacing stitch. Leave a 2" opening to stuff ornament; stuff with fiberfill and continue lacing and adding beads. Twisted-cording hanger made using DMC® 902.

Blue Ribbon Designs, 413 29th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50265; *designer@blueribbondesigns.com*
www.blueribbondesigns.com

See page 100 for **Cinnamon-Scented Ornaments** recipe.



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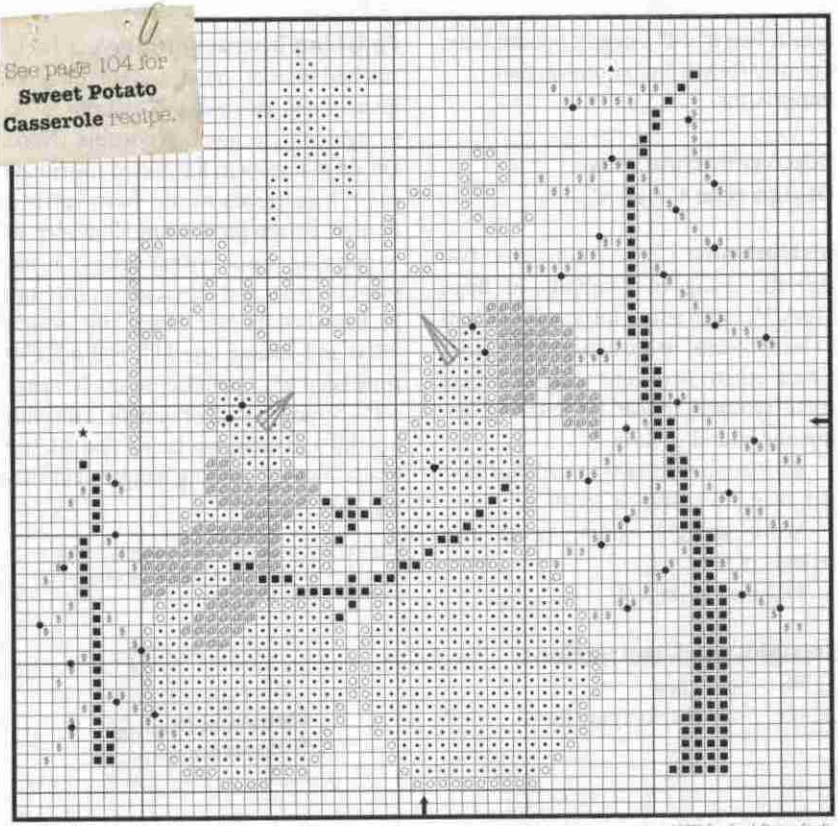
See page 104 for **Sweet Potato Casserole** recipe.



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SamSarah Design Studio

Patti Connor

"From the Connor-Sachtleben family to yours, wishing you peace, total contentment, plenty of time to stitch.

Here's one of our favorite side-dish recipes for any holiday, but we love it with a Christmas ham. It's a slimmed-down version of a classic childhood favorite. We like to make it ahead if we're hosting the meal, and it's easy to transport when visiting. Plus, it tastes great at room temperature if the oven is too full of last-minute dishes."

Peace

Crescent Colours Belle Soie Silk Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- ■ briar patch (938)
- $ herb garden (3051)
- @ poison apple (3831)
- ○ sandy beach (738)
- • vanilla pudding (712)
- ls terra potta (356)

Just Another Button Company™

- ♥ 3309.T tiny red heart
- ★ 1193.T tiny Mr. Cardinal
- ▲ 1194.T tiny Mrs. Cardinal

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 30-count straw linen from Weeks Dye Works™

Stitch count: 58H x 60W
Design size: 3 7/8" x 4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work long stitch (ls) for noses, using two strands of terra potta.

Work French knots where • appears, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Attach buttons, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Photo is on page 8.

French-knot instructions:

briar patch	eyes
terra potta	berries on tree branches (two strands)

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Hanger made using coordinating jute twine.

SamSarah Design Studio, 140 Oakland Drive, Troy, IL 62294; *samsarahdesign@msn.com*
www.samsarahdesignstudio.com

Fanci That

Beth K. Hendlzik

"I hope you enjoy this recipe for cranberry ice. Merry Christmas!"

Glory to the Newborn King

	DMC®	Anchor®	
(	950	4146	desert sand, lt.
3	738	361	tan, vy. lt.
■	3787	904	brown gray, dk.
~	3782	388	mocha brown, lt.
¶	840	1084	beige brown, med.
◑	3781	1050	mocha brown, dk.
bs	3046	887	yellow beige, med.

DMC® Color Variations Floss

X	4090	golden oasis
♡	4180	rose petals
u	4145	sand dune
@	4015	stormy skies
·	4160	glistening pearl

DMC® Light Effects Metallic Floss

☆	E3821	light gold
	E168	silver

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

○	40557	gold
◊	40123	cream
●	42038	matte chocolate
◆	42010	ice

Just Another Button Company™

★	nh1050.S	small baby Jesus

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 30-count angel hair linen from Weeks Dye Works™

Stitch count: 70H x 44W

Design size: 4½" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

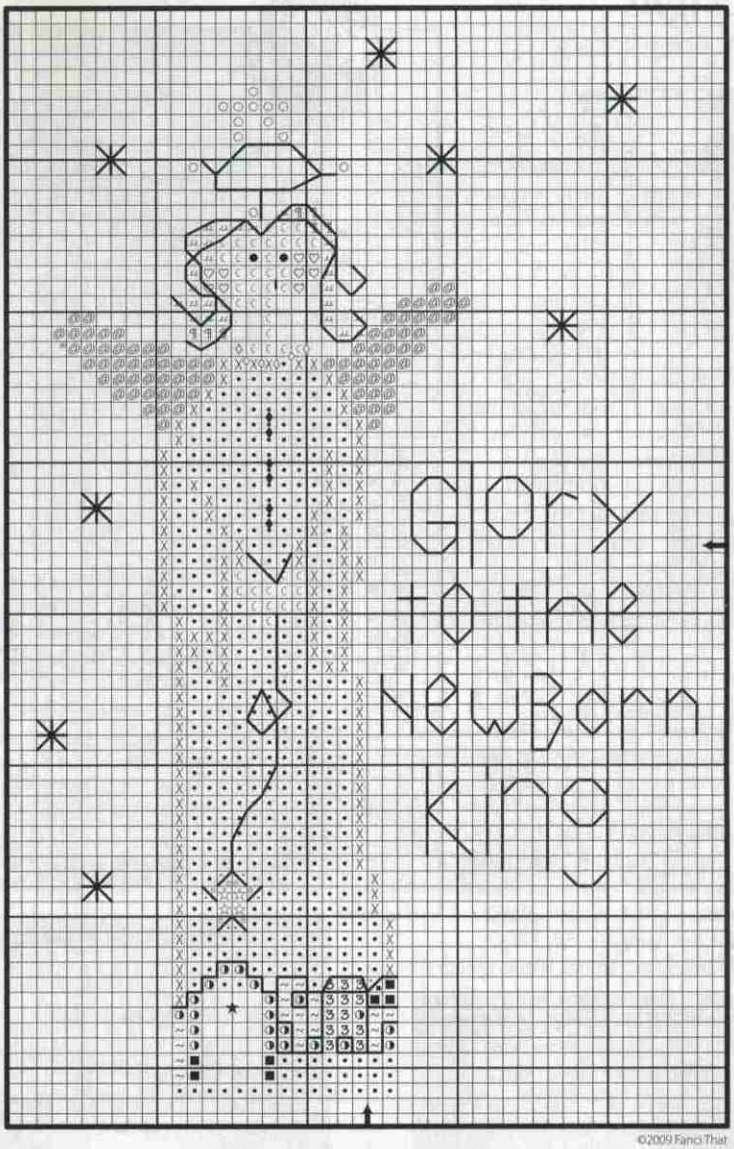
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work Algerian-eye stitch over six threads for stars in sky, using one strand 168.

Attach beads, using one strand of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Attach button, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Photo is on page 8.



©2009 Fanci That

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

4180		lettering
E3821		star and hanger
3046	887	halo
3787	904	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat ornament finishing on page 95. Backing was made using Weeks Dye Works™ #1339 Bourdeaux wool. Model was embellished with a Just Another Button Company™ #3356 white ken button in each corner. Ribbon hanger made using The Thread Gatherer 033 silver queen and 023 frosted auburn 4mm Silken Ribbon.

Fanci That, 16525 Rain Forest Drive, Wildwood, MO 63011, *fancithat@gmail.com; www.fancithat.com*

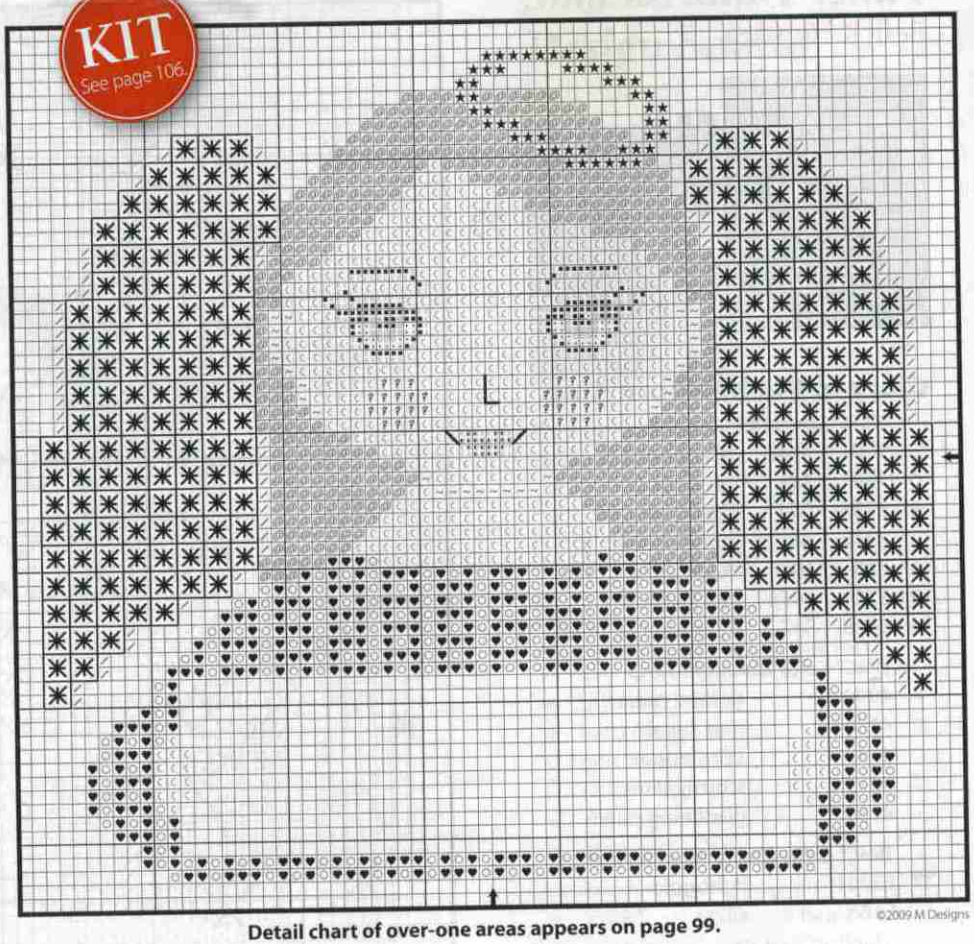
See page 101 for **Cranberry Ice** recipe.

M Designs

Mary McLenon-Turley

"This picture of my daughter, DiDi, is from her first year as an angel in our local playhouse production of *The Nutcracker*. I love this picture because she looks so "angelic." Our playhouse does *The Nutcracker* every other year; as the years pass, the kids move up into older roles. DiDi longs for the year that she can be an Arabian dancer, but I'll always treasure the angel years.

I love images of angels. From the medieval angels in old paintings to the sweet winged cherubs on Valentine cards to the country angels seen in gardens, they all have their own individual charm. For this year's ornament, I've decided to do one of my new angels, the *Angel of Hope*. I love her red hair and green eyes. She is part of a new series. There are curently four angels, and Hope makes five. If you enjoy stitching her, please look for her companions. They make a lovely statement hanging together on a tree or decorating a wreath. If you have a specific "angel" for whom you'd like to stitch this ornament, you might want to spell out her name out rather than Hope's. I leave you with wishes from my family to yours. May you have a joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year."



Detail chart of over-one areas appears on page 99.

Angel of Hope

	DMC®	Presencia®	
?	778	2057	antique mauve, vy. lt.
~	950	7936	desert sand, lt.
☾	951	0400	tawny, lt.
◐	816	1915	garnet
•	B5200	0001	snow white

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

○	1193 (581)	guacamole
♥	1316 (3740)	mulberry
@	2238 (920)	sweet potato
■	3910 (310)	mascara
bs	1269 (898)	chestnut

Rainbow Gallery Treasure Petite Braid

★	PB01	bright gold

Access Commodities Soie Perlee
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

/	creme (3865)	cream
✳	creme (3865)	cream (Smyrna cross stitch)

Just Another Button Company™

8817	HOPE pack

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 30-count tin roof linen from Weeks Dye Works™

Stitch count: 61H x 66W
Design size: 4 1/8" x 4 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss, one strand of petite braid, or one strand of soie perlee. Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear for eye areas and mouth, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads, using one strand creme. (*Note: Lines indicate stitch placement only and are not to be backstitched.*)

Attach buttons, using two strands 1269 and referring to photo for placement.

Photo is on page 9.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

816	43	mouth
1269		nose

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® 642. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

M Designs, 2017 Okmulgee Lane, Crossville, TN 38572
mary@m--designs.com; www.m--designs.com

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Christmas
stitching
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Christmas TREE

1. **It's Fine-ally Finished**
   Mistletoad
2. **Charlotte's Web Needlework**
   Oh Christmas Tree
3. **The Sweetheart Tree**
   Holly Ornament
4. **Cindy Valentine Designs**
   Homespun Christmas
5. **Amy Bruecken Designs**
   Joy
6. **The Workbasket**
   Christmas Forest
7. **The Prairie Schooler, Inc.**
   Frosty Fun
8. **Erica Michaels Designs**
   Blessings
9. **My Mark**
   Christmas Stitching
10. **Little House Needleworks**
    Winter Sampler
11. **Angel Stitchin**
    Santa's Buddies

It's Fine-ally Finished

Jackie du Plessis

"Mistletoe has been considered a sacred or healing plant by many cultures over the centuries. It was sacred to the ancient Egyptians, and Druids used it in their sacrifices. In the language of the Celts, mistletoe means "heal-all" and was thought to be good luck. It was reputed to heal illness, act as an antidote to poisons, increase fertility, and provide protection against witchcraft and ghosts. In eighteenth-century England, mistletoe balls came into fashion, trimmed with evergreens, ribbons, and ornaments. Any girl standing under the mistletoe cannot refuse to be kissed, and such a kiss could mean romance or lasting friendship and goodwill. If she remained un-kissed, she should not expect to marry the next year."

Mistletoad

The Thread Gatherer Silk 'n Colors
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

025 (936) forest of greens

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 36-count buttercream linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 48H x 100W
Design size: 3" x 6¼"

Instructions: Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Photo is on page 20.

Finishing materials and instructions:

- 30" length The Thread Gatherer (#025 forest of greens) 12mm silk ribbon
- 25" length Gloriana Threads (#062 cranberry) 4mm silk ribbon
- One Leaping Frog Sterling Silver Charm from Charland Designs
- Twenty white glass-head pins
- Polyester fiberfill
- Size-6 knitting needle
- Mod Podge® glue

Press stitched piece from back, straightening as much as possible. (***Note:*** *Do not use steam as overdyed colors may run.*) Trim stitched piece to ¼" from backstitched outline. Clip seam allowance between peaks, where indicated by dashed red lines on chart. (***Note:*** *Do not clip any closer than two threads away from backstitched border.*) Finger press seam allowances to wrong side.

With wrong sides together, align vertical sides of stitched piece, indicated by solid red lines on chart. Using one strand 025, lace sides together through matched pairs of backstitches.

Using one strand 025 and beginning at point indicated by red dot on over-two chart, begin lacing together angled sections (indicated by gray lines on chart) through backstitches. When tip of ornament is reached, make a tacking stitch to secure the join. Do not clip joining thread; leave it hanging free. Using a new length of 025 for each joined segment, continue lacing backstitches together on angled sides until top is completely joined. Stuff ornament with polyester fiberfill. Repeat joining process for bottom of ornament, stopping 4–5 lacing stitches before bottom is completely joined. Add small amounts of fiberfill into ornament through opening, until ornament is firmly stuffed. (***Note:*** *Knitting needle may be used to push stuffing into ornament.*) Continue joining backstitches until bottom of ornament is completely closed.

Cut a 20" length of 12mm ribbon. Fold length of ribbon in half; insert both tails into a long needle. Insert needle into top-center or ornament, pushing it all the way through ornament until it emerges through bottom-center of ornament. Pull ribbon through, leaving a 3" loop at the top of ornament. Knot remaining 10" length of 12mm ribbon around ribbon tails emerging from base of ornament. Trim all tails at a 45° angle.

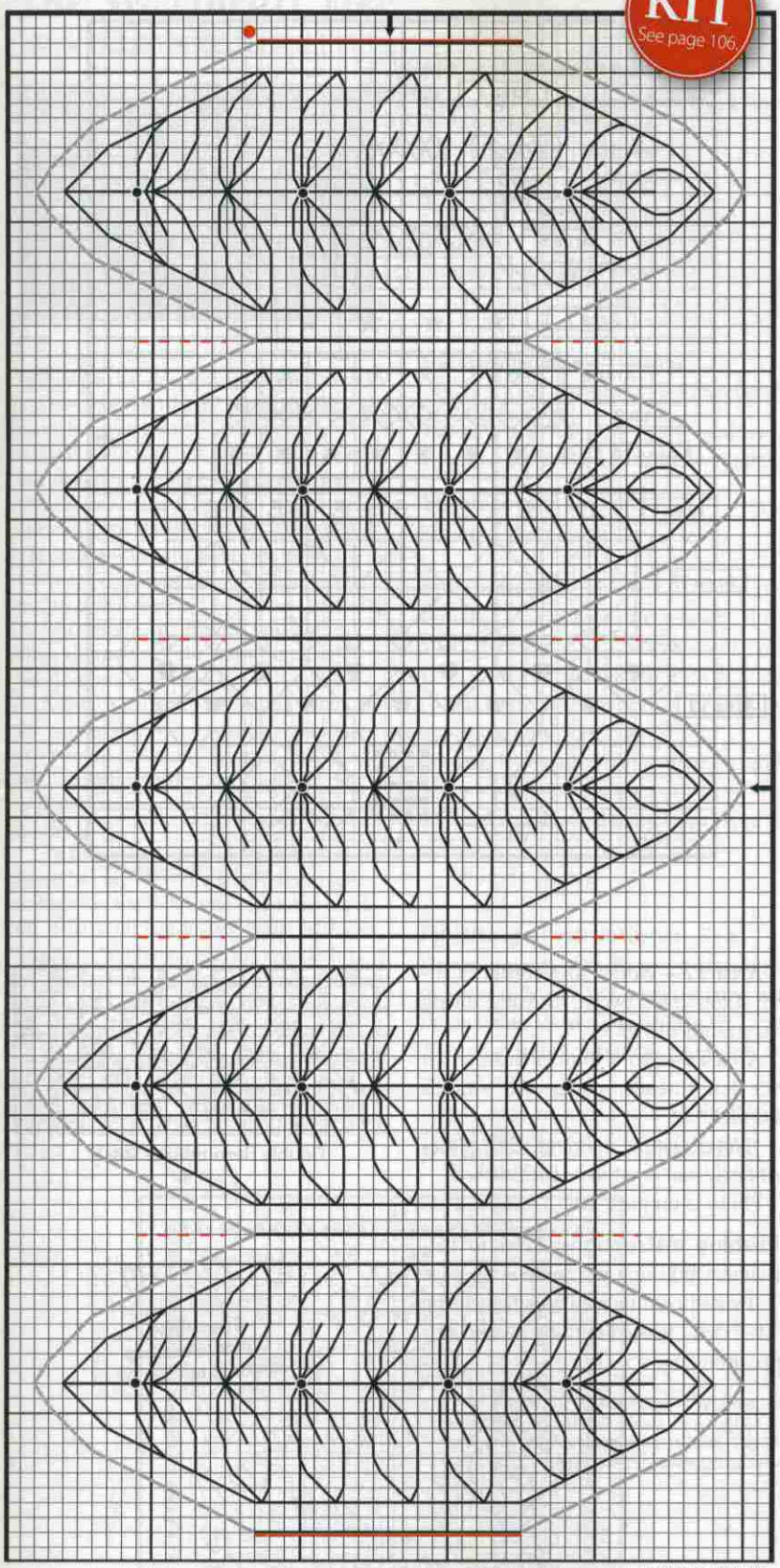
Thread each of the hanging joinging threads into a needle and make a tiny stitch through the ribbon to secure the ribbon in place an reinforcing the top joining seams. Bury tails in ornament. Repeat process for all thread tails.

Cut two 10" lengths of 4mm ribbon. Dilute one tablespoon of ModPodge in four tablespoons of water. Soak 20" length of ribbon in solution for 30 seconds. Remove ribbon lengths; run each length between fingers to remove excess solution. Wrap ribbon around the knitting needle in a tight spiral, keeping long edges from touching. Allow to dry completely.

Unwind ribbons from knitting needle and knot around 12mm ribbons at base of ornament. Tie remaining 5" length of 4mm at base of loop at top of ornament and trim tails. Attach sterling charm near top of ornament. Insert a glass pin into ornament where • appears on chart.

It's Fine-ally Finished, 15 Country View Drive, Attleboro, MA 02703; *jackie@itsfineallyfinished.com; www.itsfineallyfinished.com*

See page 102 for Créme Brûlée recipe.



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Over-Two Chart

Over-one chart appears on page 99.

Charlotte's Web Needlework

Charlotte Smythe

"I do love my Christmas tree. It isn't color coordinated, and it doesn't have a theme. It will never grace the window of a posh shop. I would not want it to. No, my tree is the history of my life and my family. Each ornament holds a memory, and each year, as I unwrap each ornament, those memories come flooding back. Some are completely happy, especially the ones from childhood. Some are bittersweet, like the tiny pink Santa I bought for my dad—who told every child he ever met that everything in the whole world is pink. He didn't live long enough to hang the ornament on his tree, but I remember him every year when I hang it on mine.

The best memories come from the ornaments that were gifts from friends. One of my favorites involves the whole tree. A family move ended with the arrival of our furniture on December 23. Amidst the chaos we had a tree, decorated and shining, which was somehow more beautiful because of that chaos.

I am writing this on a lovely spring day—the flowers are out in all their glory, and the trees are budding. After a very cold winter, the world is coming back to life. This is my favorite time of year, but what I really want to do is unwrap a few ornaments and take another trip down memory lane."

Oh Christmas Tree

	DMC®	Anchor®	
♥	500	683	blue green, vy. dk. (Rhodes heart stitch over 10)
£	501	878	blue green, dk. (Rhodes stitch over 8)
✳	502	877	blue green (triangle variation stitch)
★	503	876	blue green, med. (frame stitch over 8)
⊗	503	876	blue green, med. (eyelet stitch over 6)
★	504	206	blue green, vy. lt.
■	801	359	coffee, dk.
⧗	3813	875	blue green, lt. (Scotch stitch over 4)
@	3813	875	blue green, lt. (reverse Scotch stitch over 4)

DMC® Light Effects Precious Metals
Anchor® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

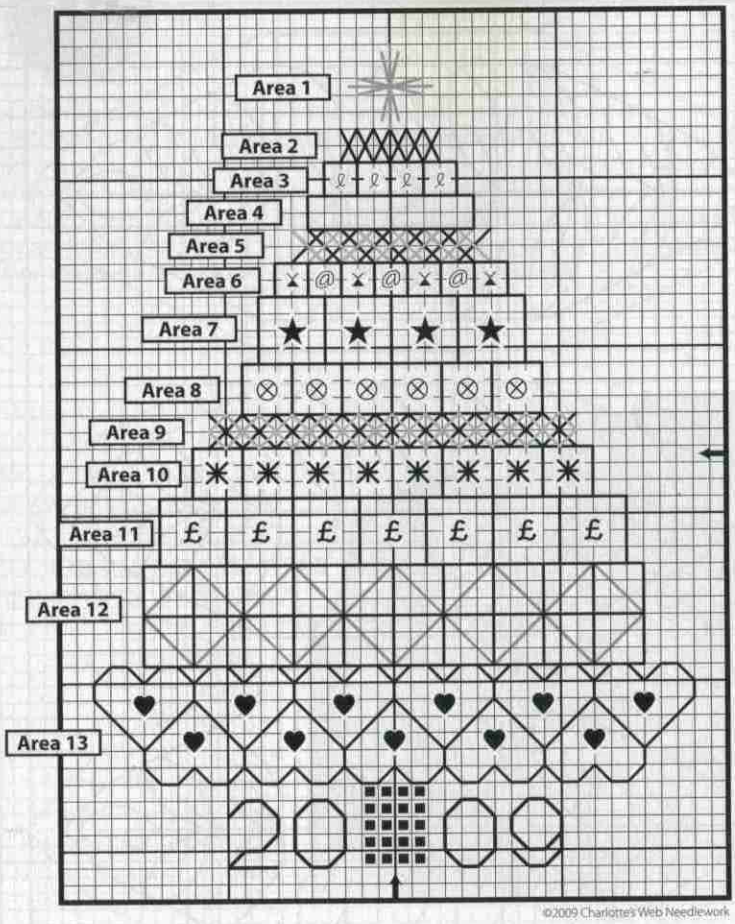
ℓ E168 (301) silver (Smryna cross stitch)

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

7023 (3815) green pasture

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count white Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 49H x 36W
Design size: 3 1/8" x 2 1/4"



©2009 Charlotte's Web Needlework

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads for date, using one strand 501/878.

Area 1—Work tied windmill stitch over ten threads, using two strands E168.

Area 2—Work elongated cross stitch over four threads, using two strands 504/206.

Area 3—Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads, using two strands E168.*

Area 4—Work wild goose chase stitch over four threads, using two strands 504/206.*

Area 5—Work double herringbone stitch over four threads, using two strands 3813/875 for black lines and two strands 504/206 for gray lines.

Area 6—Work Scotch stitch and reverse Scotch stitch over four threads, using two strands 3813/875.*

Area 7—Work frame stitch over eight threads, using two strands 504/1042 for vertical and outer horizontal portions of stitch and two strands 503/1042 for center horiztonal portion.*

Area 8—Work eyelet stitch over six threads, using two strands 503/876.*

Area 9—Work rice stitch over four threads, using two strands 502/877 for black lines and two strands 503/876 for gray lines.

Area 10—Work triangle stitch variation over six threads, using two strands 502/877.*

Area 11—Work Rhodes stitch over eight threads, using two strands of 501/878.*

Area 12—Work cross-corner cushion stitch over twelve threads, using two strands of 7023.

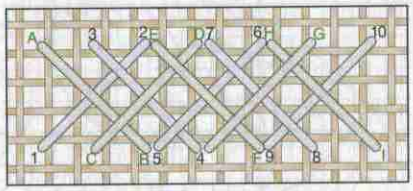
Area 13—Work Rhodes heart stitch over ten threads, using two strands 500/683.*

**Note:* *Outline indicates stitch placement only and is not to be backstitched.*

Photo is on page 20.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC® 501. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Charlotte's Web Needlework
173 Bridge Court, Stanley Rod Harrow, Middlesex
HA2 OFF; *charlottesmyth@yahoo.co.uk;*
www.charlotteswebneedlework.com



Double Herringbone Stitch
(Over 4)

See page 100 for **Chocolate Chocolate-Chip Meringues** recipe.

The Sweetheart Tree™

Sandra Cox Vanosdall

"Those who know me well will attest to the fact that decorating for the holidays is a real passion where I tend to go just a teeny bit overboard! (Seven trees isn't really too many—is it?) I tend to start early and decorate anything that doesn't move. Our cat, K.C., has learned to sleep with one eye open starting in mid-November. The house is usually wrapped in full Christmas regalia while the Thanksgiving turkey is still thawing.

But despite my love for putting up those decorations, the most important thing for me is to have our entire family on hand for Christmas morning. Gone are the days of the "kids" eagerly waking us at 5 a.m. to see what "Sandie Claus" had left. But still sharing Christmas morning with the entire family is the most wonderful thing.

I'd like you to meet the true "sweethearts" in my life—my family. From left to right are the folks who touch my heart the most—our son-in-law, Brian, with our daughter, Stephanie; me; my wonderful husband, Dave; our daughter-in-law, Cherylyn, with Steve, our son; and, last but not least, seated down front is Grandma Jean.

If you wake early this Christmas, think of me enjoying an early-morning cup of coffee and quietly waiting for the "family" to arrive! Peace of the season from our family to yours!"

Holly Ornament

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

X	2153 (502)	cypress
■	2264 (816)	garnet
bs	1279 (500)	holly
	1094 (3865)	linen

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

○	40557	gold
●	42013	red

The Sweetheart Tree™ Charm

◆	SV-CP10	ruby cabochon heart

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 32-count opalescent raw Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 34H x 34W

Design size: 2 1/8" x 2 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work 1/4 cross stitch where small symbols appear, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch (bs) over two threads, using one strand 1279.

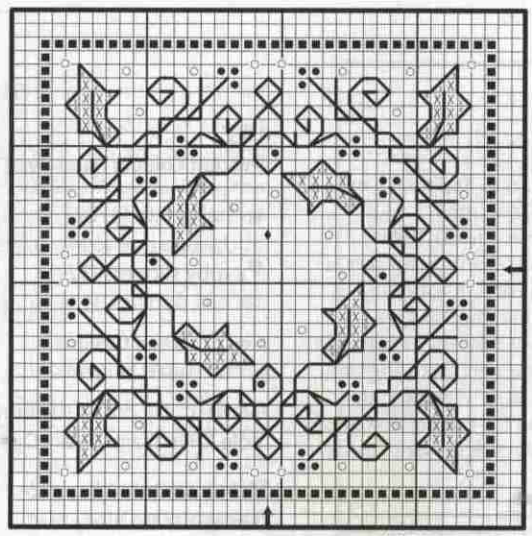
Attach beads, using two strands 1094.

Attach charm, using two strands 2264.

Photo is on page 20.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim was made using Weeks Dye Works™ 2264. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

The Sweetheart Tree™, 10308 North 48th Place, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253-1033; *info@sweetheartstree.com; www.sweetheartstree.com*



©2009 The Sweetheart Tree™

Cindy Valentine Designs

Cindy Valentine

"This is going to be a bittersweet Christmas at the Valentine household. As we welcomed a new, beautiful granddaughter, Sophia, to our family, we also said good-bye to my mother, Iris.

My earliest memories of Christmas were those of helping my mother and grandmother bake about a million kinds of cookies for the family and all the neighbors. My mother and grandmother made krumkake, fattigmand, rosettes, brownies, and snickerdoodles. They made thumbprints, gingersnaps, and tender meringues filled with mint chocolate chips. I got to help make the spritz, and I loved pressing out the shapes onto the cookie sheets and decorating them with colored sprinkles. Together, we would walk over to our neighbors' homes with foil-wrapped plates of cookies, topped with Christmas bows. Here is one of my mother's favorite Christmas cookie recipes to share. She called them Ting-a-lings."

Homespun Christmas

ThreadworX Hand Overdyed Pearl Cotton #8

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

ss	81089	bleeding hearts
ss	81048	woodland green

Anchor® DMC® Embroidery Floss

■	360	898	coffee, dk.
@	360	898	coffee, dk.
	002HL	Kreinik BF	gold, hi lustre
ss	901	435	brass, med.

Anchor® DMC® Pearl Cotton #12

47	321	carmine red

Kreinik Blending Filament

ss	002HL	gold, hi lustre

Mill Hill Seed Beads

○	00557	old gold
●	02013	red

Fabric: 10" x 8" piece 28-count natural brown undyed linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 74H x 42W
Design size: 5 1/3" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use two strands of floss and one strand of blending filament.

Work satin stitch, using one strand of pearl cotton #8 or two strands of floss and one strand of blending filament.

Work eyelet stitch over four threads in center of star, using two strands 901/435 and one strand 002HL.

Work Kloster blocks, using one strand 81089.

Using sharp embroidery scissors, cut fabric threads where red lines appear on chart. Carefully withdraw cut fabric threads.

Using one strand 47/321 pearl cotton #12, work woven bars over remaining fabric theads.

Attach beads, using two strands of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Photo is on page 21.

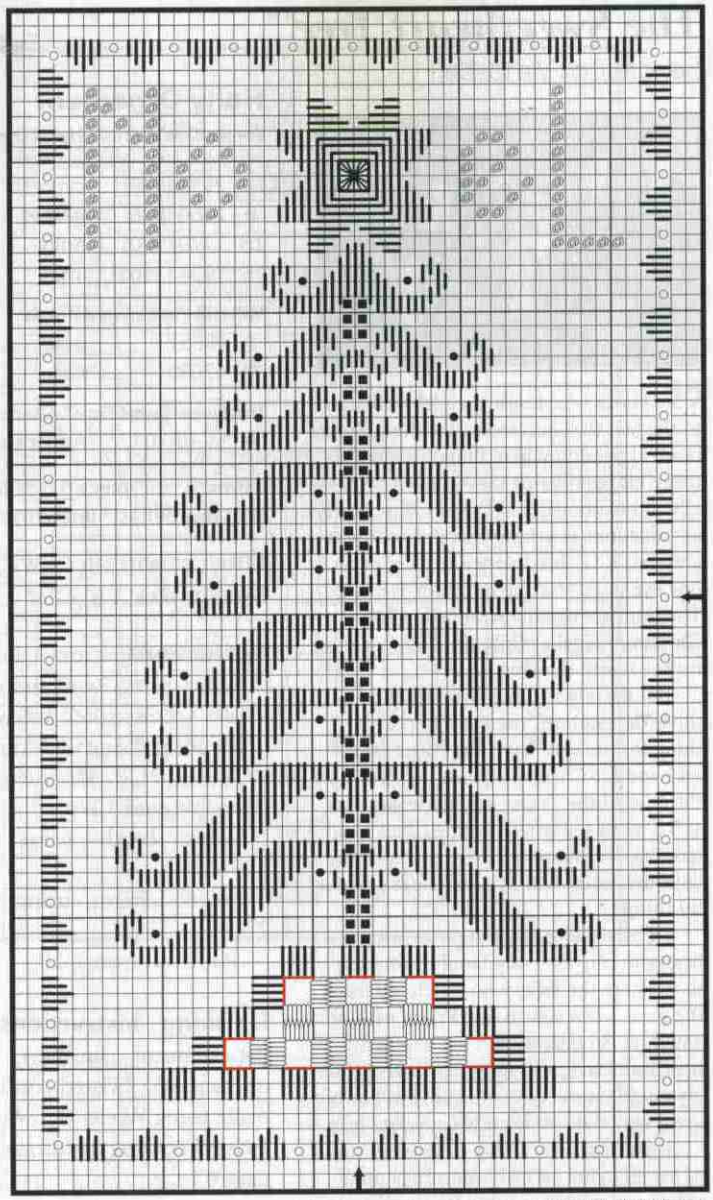
Satin-stitch (ss) instructions:

81089		border
81048		tree branches
901	435	star
002HL		

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Ribbon was made using 3/8"- wide red grosgrain ribbon.

Cindy Valentine Designs,
1525 Kenosha Court,
Davenport, IA 52804
cindy@cindyvalentine.com
www.cindyvalentine.com

See page 100 for Ting-A-Lings recipe.



©2009 Cindy Valentine Designs

Amy Bruecken Designs

Amy Bruecken

"My holiday memory this year is still fresh and makes me snicker to myself because we had such a great time.

The cast was Koneta Ann, (sister and best friend), Robin (best friend), and Dawn (best friend). It was our thirtieth year of friendship; we were all co-horts and roommates in college.

We found $9 plane tickets, convinced our families that although the timing was bad—it was two weeks after Christmas, and cash flow was bad to say the least—we were throwing caution to the wind and going. We drove through a blizzard, took the red-eye from Detroit to Vegas, and had the time of our lives!

There was a lot of rich food, slot machines, laughs, and five olives in the free Bloody Marys. What more can a girl ask for?"

Joy

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- ■ balsam fir (3787)
- · Joshua tree (644)
- ♥ ruby slippers (321)
- @ pea pod (831)

Amy Bruecken Designs
red heart button

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 30-count guacamole linen from Weeks Dye Works™

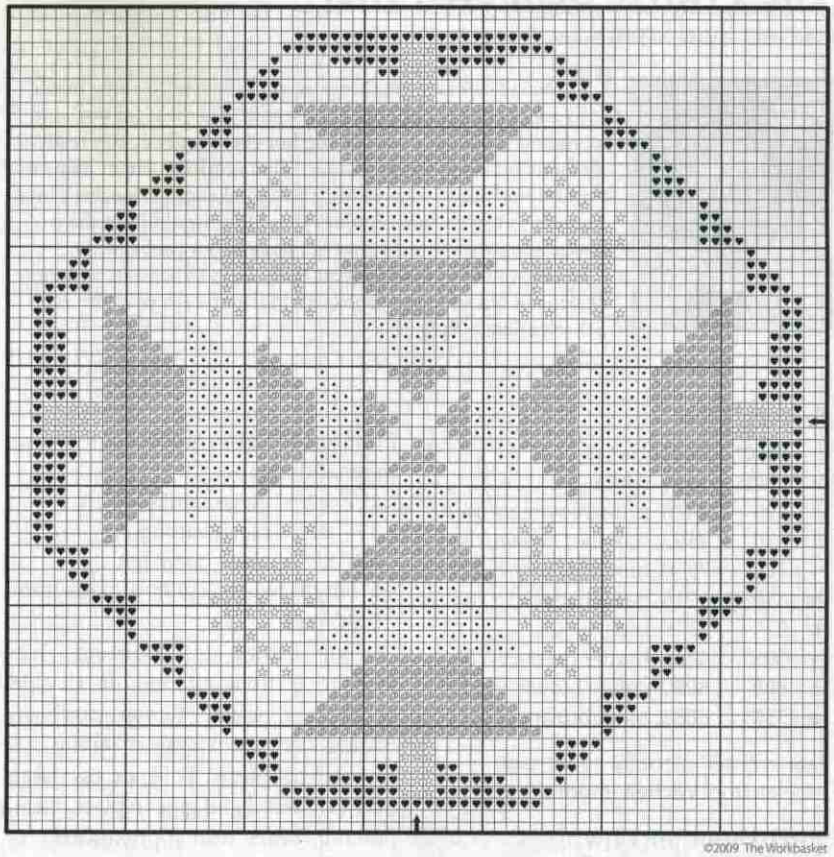
Stitch count: 27H x 20W
Design size: 1 7/8" x 1 1/3"

The Workbasket

Candy Scott and Mary Olsen

"During the winter of 2006, Candy and I were able to spend a few hours together when her family was in Denver for Christmas. Candy lives in the Netherlands, and we don't often have time together. While we were together, snow began to fall, inch after inch, until it became foot after foot. We were snowed in together. No interruptions! No errands to run!

As a treat, we rummaged through my linen drawer and threads, and we each found a new project to start and stitch just for that day. For once not our own designs, but something we chose from the *Just CrossStitch Christmas Ornaments* issue. We sat side by side with our scissors, magnifiers, and charts, visiting and stitching contentedly with this unexpected gift of an entire day together."



©2009 The Workbasket

Christmas Forest

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	0140 (500)	blue spruce
•	0120 (501)	pine
☆	0510 (434)	cinnamon
♥	0360 (816)	cranberry

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 40-count vintage light examplar linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 65H x 65W

Design size: 3¼" x 3¼"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two strands, using one strand of floss.

Photo is on page 20.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger were made using purchased cording. Model was embellished by inserting glass-head pins into edges of ornament.

The Workbasket, PMB #389, 303 South Broadway, Suite B, Denver, CO 80209-1511
candy@theworkbasket.net; www.theworkbasket.net

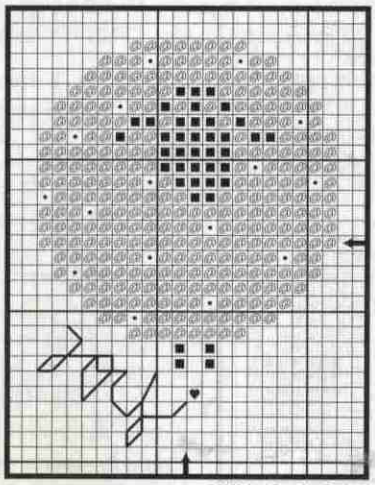
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of balsam fir.

Attach button, using two strands of ruby slippers and referring to photo for placement.

Photo is on page 20.

Finishing instructions: Using template on page 98, trim design and backing wool to size. (Model uses Weeks Dye Works™ #2210HB citronella wool.) Secure edges of linen with Fray-Check. Place pieces with wrong sides together and join, using a running stitch and six strands of ruby slippers; leave a small space for stuffing. Stuff ornament with polyester fiberfill and continue stitching together. Wrap wire around neck of ornament, tacking in place on wrong side of ornament and twisting wire upward to make hanger. (Model uses red wire wrap from Amy Bruecken Designs.)



©2009 Amy Bruecken Designs

Amy Bruecken Designs, 4332 Rugby Drive, Toledo, OH 43614; *amybruecken@bex.net*

The Prairie Schooler, Inc.

Pamela Byrd Smith

"One of our favorite things as children was to come inside cold and wet after building a snowman. The treat for our hard work and snowy fun was having hot cocoa and cookies ready to warm us up when we were done. This year's ornament helps us recall those snowy days of our childhood and our mother's love. These are easy no-bake cookies that Mom would let us help make along with our favorite homemade hot cocoa recipe.

Be sure to see our other great *Holly Days Ornaments* and more designs in our four new books and for our 27th year, the *2009 Schooler Santa.*"

Frosty Fun

	DMC®	Presencia®	
•	blanc	1000	white
○	320	4478	pistachio green, med.
X	420	7392	hazelnut brown, dk.
~	758	7810	terra cotta, vy. lt.
@	815	1915	garnet, med.
◐	824	3319	blue, vy. dk.
★	895	4485	hunter green, vy. dk.
3	898	8080	coffee brown, vy. dk.
■	3371	8083	black brown

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 32-count sage Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 51H x 41W

Design size: 3 1/4" x 2 5/8"

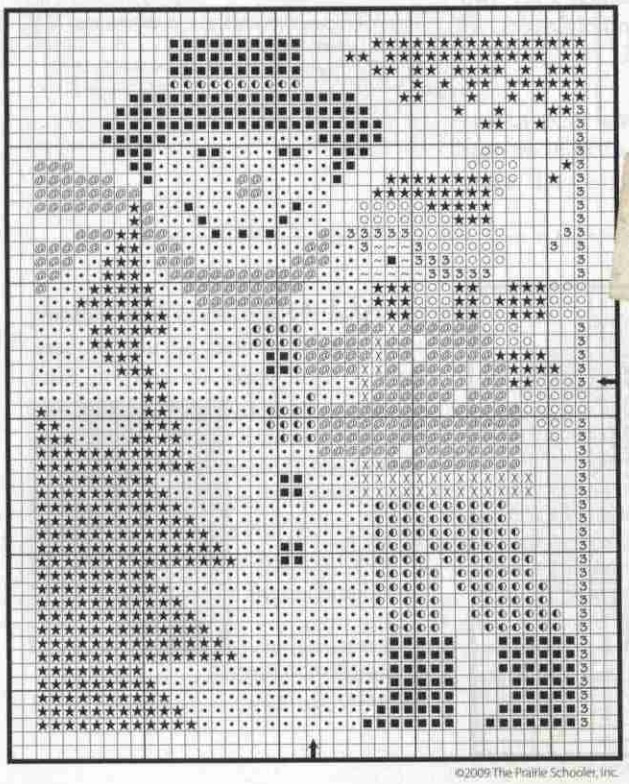
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Photo is on page 20.

Finishing materials and instructions:

- 3 1/4" x 2 5/8" piece cardboard
- 3 1/4" x 2 5/8" piece batting
- 4 1/4" x 3 5/8" piece green felt
- 6" length twisted cording, made from DMC® 895

Glue batting to cardboard. Trim linen to 1" from stitching on all sides of stitched design. Center cardboard batting-side down against wrong side of stitched piece. Fold excess fabric over cardboard and glue in place. Using pinking shears, trim approximately 1/4" from all sides of felt, making the resulting piece slightly larger than stitched piece. Glue felt to back of cardboard. Tack twisted-cording hanger to back of ornament.



The Prairie Schooler, Inc.
Post Office Box 8381
Prairie Village, KS 66208
info@prairieschooler.com
www.prairieschooler.com

See page 104 for **Holly Days Cookies** recipe.

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Erica Michaels Designs

Linda Stolz

"We lived in south Florida for about two years when Eric was very young. Coming from Kansas, everything about Christmas where we now lived seemed strange to us—planting annuals Thanksgiving weekend, picking out a Christmas tree in balmy temperatures, touring neighborhoods with vast and complex light displays (they had lots of good weather to be outside working on them). With all of the family back in the Midwest, we always made a trip back home for the holidays. It was bitterly cold in Kansas one year with plenty of snow on the ground, and we had an 18-month-old who wanted very much to play outside a lot. We could be out for limited amounts of time, but the temperatures made any long periods of play impossible. To help calm a cranky toddler, we finally took a large cake pan, filled it with snow—and then brought it inside for Eric to play with. It melted pretty quickly, but it calmed him down and made an easier day for all of us.

Anyone who knows me very well knows that I do not like to cook or spend time in the kitchen. It's not like I didn't have any worthy role models in my mom and grandmas—it's just the way it worked out. Our holiday gatherings, past and present, are really all about family; as we are spread out across the country, just being able to come together is what is most important. More and more, I'm all about simplifying the food prep as much as possible so we are able to spend more time together relaxed and connecting rather than trying to get the next meal ready. Although there are always one or two dominant meals, I much prefer to make up as much as possible beforehand and set up a buffet. It's more informal, but it suits us very well."

Blessings

Weeks Dye Works Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

~	1183 (3053)	artichoke
/	1106 (712)	beige
◐	2159 (520)	seaweed

	DMC®	Anchor®	
•	B5200	1	snow white
■	154	72	grape, vy. dk.
3	336	150	navy blue
☆	729	890	old gold, med.
@	3685	1028	mauve, vy. dk.

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 40-count silk gauze from Access Commodities or Kreinik

Stitch count: 68H x 39W
Design size: 1¾" x 1"

Instructions: Work tent stitch or basketweave stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. (***Note:*** *Work motifs and letterieng first and fill in background areas, using a basketweave stitch whenever possible to avoid distorting fabric.*)

Backstitch over one thread, using one strand 3685/1028.

Photo is on page 21.

Finishing materials and instructions:

- 3½" x 5½" piece cardstock
- 3½" x 5½" piece scrapbook paper
- Two 3½" x 5½" pieces parchment paper
- Acid-free double stick tape
- 9" length coordinating 4mm silk ribbon
- X-Acto™ knife

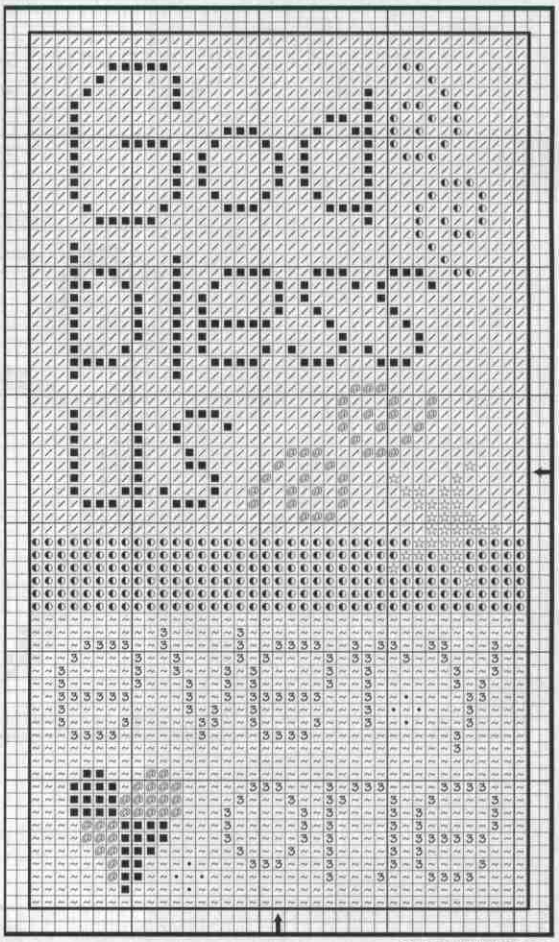
Fold cardstock, scrapbook paper, and parchment paper in half lengthwise. Apply double-stick tape to wrong side of stitched piece, approximately ¼" from edge of stitched design; mount stitched design to right half of folded piece of parchment paper, carefully centering design. Carefully trim away excess gauze so piece is slightly smaller than parchment paper.

Using the mounted stitched piece as a template, measure desired opening for front of cardstock and cut out using X-Acto™ knife. (***Note:*** *Model opening measures 1⅞"H x 1½"W.*) Apply double-stick tape around front side of stitched piece; align and mount to wrong side of folded cardstock, centering stitched piece within opening.

Insert folded scrapbook paper into folded cardstock. Trim away any scrapbook and parchment paper that extends past edge of cardstock. Apply double-stick tape to wrong side of scrapbook paper and adhere to cardstock.

Measure in 1" from top and bottom along spine of book and poke two holes, using a needle or sharp knife to pierce all layers. Thread silk ribbon into holes, securing all pages together. Knot ribbon and tie tails into a bow.

Erica Michaels Designs, 344 Wells Court, Clarksville, TN 37043
emstitch@charter.net; www.ericamichaels.com



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My Mark

Monique Keylon

"One of my favorite Christmas traditions actually occurs after Christmas. On the night before we start the un-decorating process, my daughter and I sleep in the living room by the Christmas tree. We leave the tree lights on, which looks so pretty when everything else is dark, and we talk about Christmas—what it means, what our favorite things were this year, and what we hope for next year. We also spend time giggling over girly things, and it's usually pretty late before we settle down and rest. I love our special tradition and hope we can continue our "campouts" for a long time."

Christmas Stitching

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
@	347	1025	salmon, vy. dk.
•	blanc	2	white
bs	319	1044	pistachio green, vy. dk.

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 32-count platinum pizazz Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 52H x 56W
Design size: 3¼" x 3½"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over four threads where large X appears, using two strands 347/1025.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Insert a size 26 needle through fabric at end of hand, referring to photo for placement. (***Note:*** *A portion of the backstitch will pass through needle eye for thread.*)

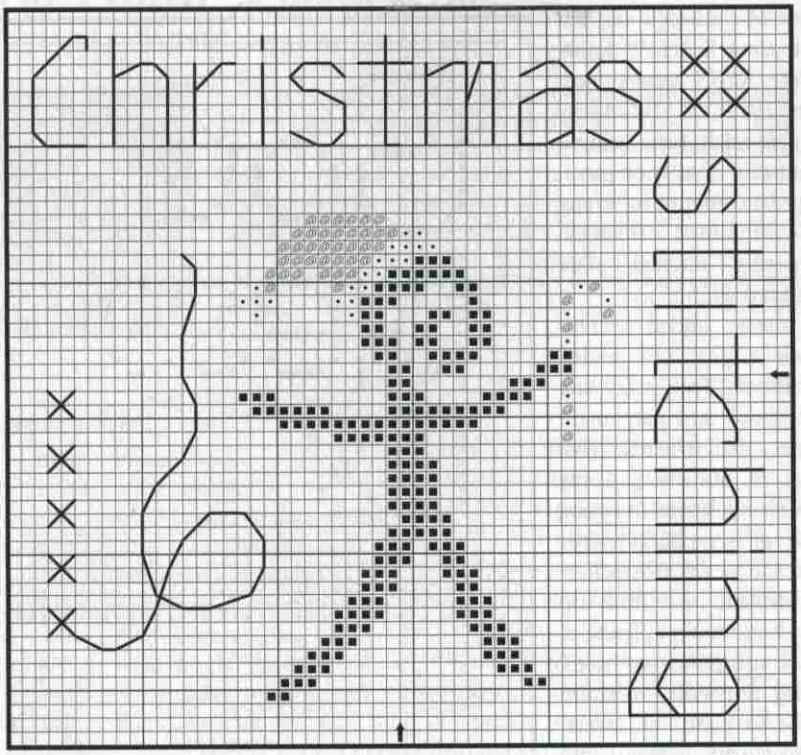
Photo is on page 20.
Chart is on page 30.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

347	1025	thread
319	1044	lettering

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording made using blanc. Hanger was made using jewelry wire and twisting ends around the point of a pencil to create swirls.

My Mark, 20 Eagles Bluff Drive, Winfield, MO 63389
mkeylon@centurytel.net; www.mymarkdesigns.com



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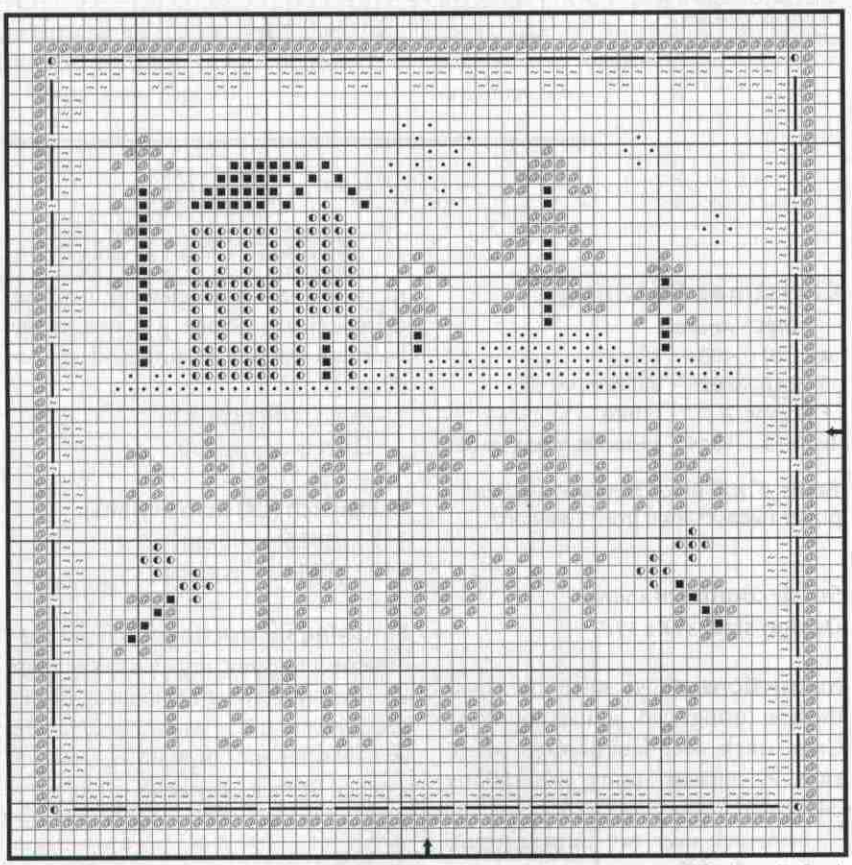


©2009 Little House Needleworks

Little House Needleworks

Diane Williams

"I have no really clear memories of a trip I took with my parents, brother, and grandparents to Santa's Village in 1959, but I have wonderful photos and home movies of the day. The movies have no sound; they flicker and have a graininess to them, typical of the era. But what I love about it all is the magical time it created for our little family. It's simply wonderful to look back on those images and imagine what a good time we all had (until my brother saw Santa and cried). This year's photo is of my parents, brother, grandmother, and me as a 3-year-old taken right before we headed off on a sleigh ride with eight very large reindeer."

Winter Sampler

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- ~ dandelion stem (524)
- • toasted marshmallow (blanc)
- @ Joshua tree (3052)
- ■ roasted chestnut (433)
- ◐ wild berries (3721)

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 32-count vintage light examplar linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 60H x 60W

Design size: 3¾" x 3¾"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work running stitch over eight threads for border, using two strands of wild berries.

Photo is on page 20.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim was made using purchased cording. Twisted-cord hanger was made using Crescent Colours Joshua tree hand dyed cotton floss. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Little House Needleworks, 3321 West Cinnamon Drive, Tucson, AZ 85741
littlehouseneedleworks@msn.com
www.littlehouseneedleworks.com

Angel Stitchin

Jan Fate

"I hope you enjoy this delicious dessert bar."

Santa's Buddies

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

☆	7015 (434)	sarsaparilla
#	7061 (612)	caramel corn

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

◐	0390 (349)	buckeye scarlet

The Gentle Art Simply Wool™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	7050W (520)	baby spinach*

**Two skeins required.*

	DMC®	Anchor®	
•	blanc	1	white
■	310	403	black

Mill Hill Antique Seed Beads

○	03049	rich red

Mill Hill Treasures

15001	white metal snowflake

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 28-count lambswool linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 46H x 43W
Design size: 3 3/8" x 3 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or wool.

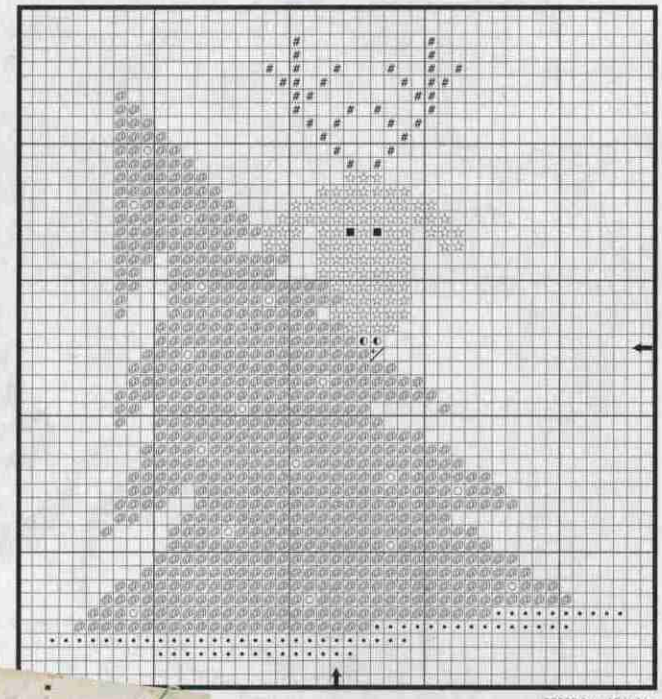
Attach beads, using two strands 0390 and a cross stitch.

Attach treasures, using two strands blanc/1 and referring to photo for placement.

Photo is on page 21.

Finishing instructions: Model finished with plaid pillow with buttons from Stitcher's Station.

Angel Stitchin, Post Office Box 345, Irving, IL 62051
angelstitchin@aol.com; www.angelstitchin.com



©2009 Angel Stitchin

See page 100 for **Fudge-Filled Peanut Butter Bars** recipe.

Christmas!

The very word brings JOY *to our* HEARTS. *No matter how we may dread the rush, the long* CHRISTMAS *lists for* GIFTS *and* CARDS *to be bought and* GIVEN—*when* CHRISTMAS DAY *comes there is still the same* WARM FEELING *we had as* CHILDREN, *the same* WARMTH *that enfolds our* HEARTS *and our* HOMES.

—Joan Winmill Brown

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Merry Christmas
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Get into
the
Spirit
8

Winter Wonderland

1. **Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches**
   What Can I Give Him?
2. **Casey Buonaugurio Designs**
   Purple Penguin
3. **Thistle Threads**
   Snow Globe
4. **Charland Designs**
   Rejoice Mini Bellpull
5. **Kitty & Me Designs**
   Happy Holidays 2009
6. **Gentle Pursuit Designs**
   Comfort and Joy
7. **Ladybug Lane Designs**
   Plaid Greetings
8. **Brittercup Designs**
   Get Into the Spirit
9. **Cross-Eyed Cricket**
   Wishes

Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches

Lauren Sauer

"Christmas came in September last year when I became a Grandma for the first time! My son, Damien, and daughter-in-law, Lisa, became the proud parents of Luke Anthony Guarnieri on September 10. As you might imagine, this darling blue-eyed boy has become the center of our lives.

My mother, Kay, and I drove down to Kennesaw, where the new family lives, to spend Thanksgiving and to attend Luke's christening on the weekend in Savannah. The accompanying "snap" was taken on Thanksgiving day.

I did design and embroider a birth sampler especially for Luke, as it seemed more important than a Christmas stocking or an ornament, even for one so tiny and new. But this year's *Just CrossStitch* offering is dedicated to him, and inspired by another little boy born so very long ago.

Cristina Rossetti wrote "In the Bleak Midwinter" in 1872. The last two stanzas of her beautiful and tender poem also influenced this year's ornament."

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air,
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give him
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

Note: Each square on chart represents one fabric thread. Every other grid line has been made darker for ease in depicting cross stitches, which are worked over two threads and are represented by symbols.

What Can I Give Him?

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

★	0120 (501)	pine (cross stitch over two)
■	0120 (501)	pine (Smyrna cross stitch)
◆	0120 (501)	pine (upright cross stitch)
•	0120 (501)	pine (cross stitch over one)
○	0113 (164)	mistletoe (cross stitch over two)
♡	0311 (3832)	holly berry (cross stitch over one)
ss	0340 (3833)	red grape
ss	0360 (3831)	cranberry

Access Commodities

GTSF4 gold spangles (16)

Fabric: 7" x 14" piece 28-count periwinkle linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count:

Ornament Front: 41H x 51W
Side Band: 12H x 302W

Design size:

Ornament Front: 3" x 3¾"
Side Band: ½" x 10⅞"

Instructions: Backstitch over two and three threads for outline of heart, using one strand 0120. Repeat heart outline a second time for back of ornament, taking care to leave a ½" seam allowance for each piece. Backstitch border of side band, using one strand 0120 and working over the following number of fabric threads: over one thread for yellow lines; over two threads for black lines; and over three threads for red lines.

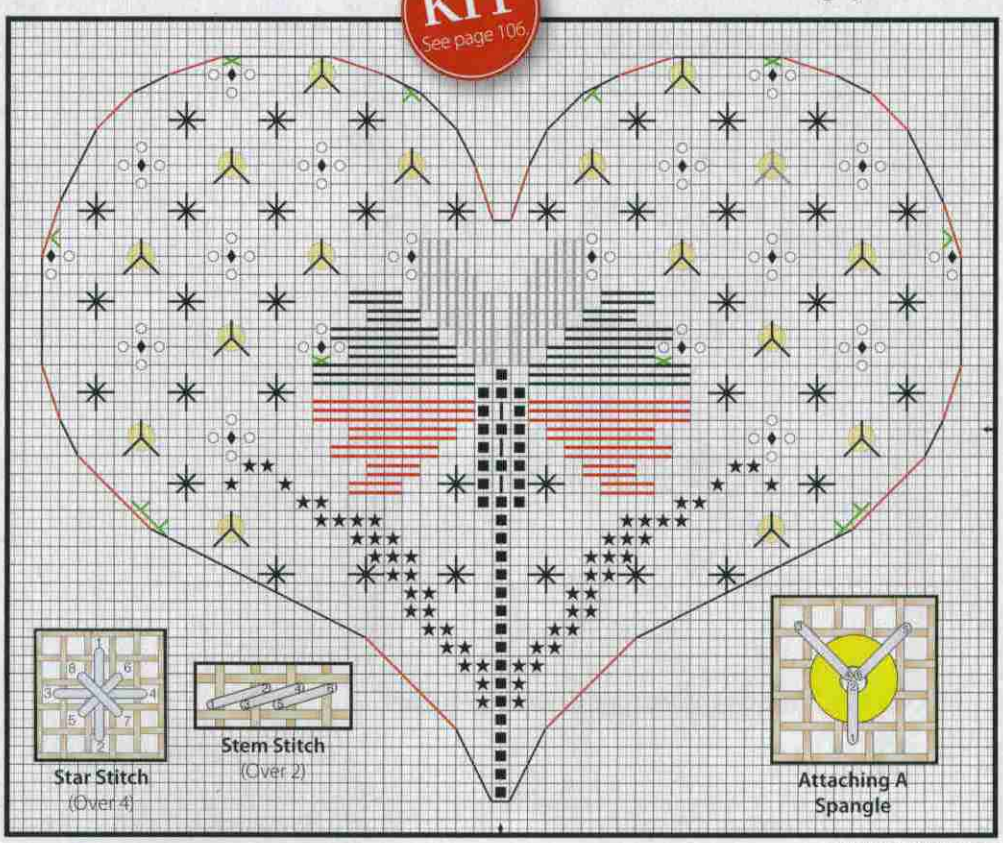
Fuse a piece of lightweight interfacing to the wrong side of heart outline that will become ornament front. Work all subsequent stitches through both linen and interfacing layer.

Front of ornament—Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Work shortened, compensating cross stitches where green lines appear, using one strand 0113.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand 0120.

Work upright cross stitch over two threads, using one strand 0113.

Work stem stitch (ss) over two threads, using one strand of the following colors: 0360 for red lines, 0311 for black lines, and 0340 for gray lines.



©2009 Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches

Work running stitch over two threads where black lines appear in stem, using one strand 0113.

Work star stitch over four threads in background, using one strand 0113.

Attach spangles, using one strand 0113.

Side band—Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Back of ornament—Personalize with name and date, if desired.

Photo is on page 32.

Finishing materials and instructions:

- Sheet of paper
- One brass double jump ring
- 16" x 16" piece cotton batting
- 8" length twisted cording (Model uses 0113.)

From paper, cut out one heart shape that fits just within backstitched border of stitched heart piece. Using paper heart as a template, cut out 13 pieces from cotton batting.

Cut out each embroidered heart shape, leaving a seam allowance of 3/8" on all sides. Clip inner curves every 1/2", and notch outer curves. Clip a "V" at the top of each heart, leaving at least two threads beyond backstitched border.

Trim side band to ten threads from backstitched border.

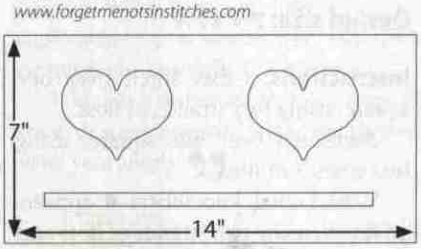
Using one strand 0120, lace the short ends of the side band together, slipping needle through corresponding backstitched pairs from each side. Finger press the short-side seam allowances open. Finger press long-side seam allowances to the wrong side.

Using two strands 0120 and a tacking stitch, secure double jump ring to the wrong side of side band at the half-point mark, indicated by an arrow on chart. (***Note:*** *Orient jump ring vertically rather than horizontally.*) Insert ends of twisted-cording through either side of jump ring, passing from right side to wrong side, and secure in place on wrong side of side band.

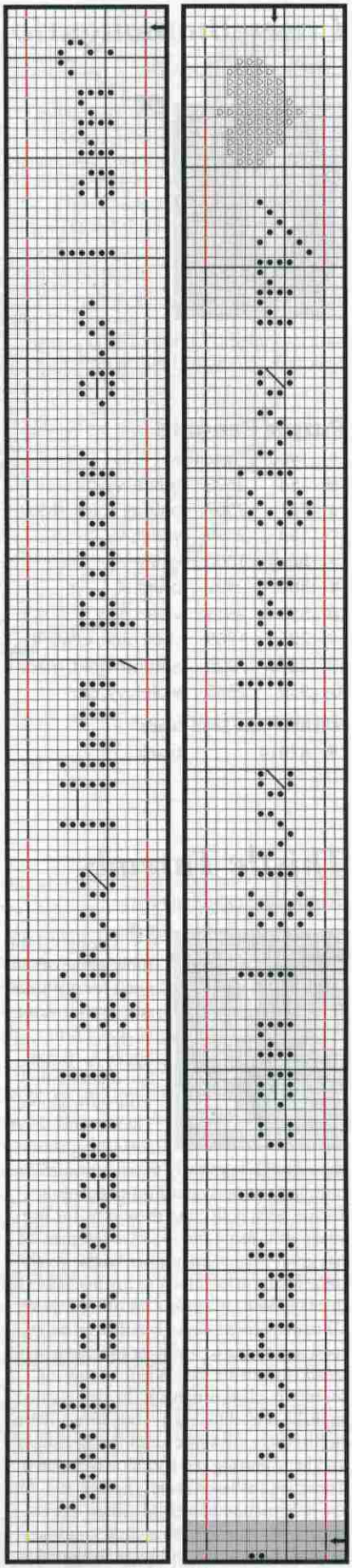
Finger press seam allowances of each heart to wrong side. Carefully align the joined seam of side band with exact center of bottom point of one embroidered heart—the two over-one backstitches at either end of side band will align with over-two backstitch at bottom point of heart. Using one strand 0120, begin lacing side band to heart. (***Note:*** *Backstitches indicated in red on both heart and side-band charts must match up exactly during the lacing proces for completed pieces to align correctly.)*

Place one heart-shaped batting piece against wrong side of heart, folding seam allowance over batting. Layer the next eleven batting pieces atop one another, until batting reaches the top edge of side band. Place the last piece of batting against wrong side of remaining heart piece, folding seam allowance over edges of batting. Carefully align edges of remaining heart with side band and lace together as before.

Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches, Post Office Box 606077, Cleveland, OH 44106
laurenatfmnis@earthlink.net
www.forgetmenotsinstitches.com



Fabric Layout Diagram



Side Band Chart

Shaded portion indicates overlap from previous chart.

Casey Buonaugurio Designs

Casey Buonaugurio

"My mother used to make these cupcakes all the time when I was a kid. Just the right amount of chocolate, coconut, and pecans!

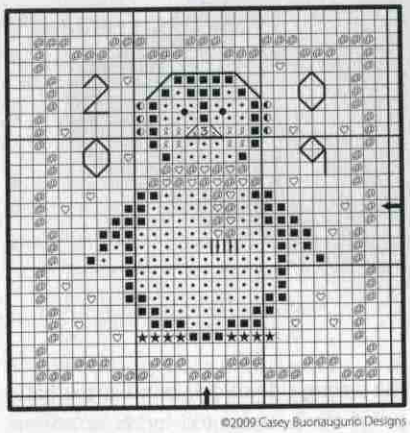
I hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. Happy stitching!"

Purple Penguin

	DMC®	Presencia®	
■	154	2595	grape, vy. dk.
★	721	7567	orange spice, med.
♡	153	2390	violet, vy. lt.
·	blanc	1000	white
◐	3607	2402	plum, lt.
@	553	2615	violet
ℓ	225	1969	shell pink, ul. vy. lt.
3	3854	7720	autumn gold, med.
bs	550	2635	violet, vy. dk.

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

•	42014	black



©2009 Casey Buonaugurio Designs

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count lavender bliss Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 27H x 27W

Design size: 1 3/4" x 1 3/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work 1/4 and 3/4 cross stitch where small symbols appear, using two strands of floss. (*Note: Thin lines indicate stitch placement and are not to be backstitched.*)

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Attach beads, using one strand of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Photo is on page 32.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

550	101	*2009*
721	324	beak
553	98	scarf fringe
3607	87	earmuffs (two strands)

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger were made using purchased cording.

Casey Buonaugurio Designs, 16562 Daza Drive, Ramona, CA 92065; *casey@caseybuonaugurio.com*
www.caseybuonaugurio.com

See page 100 for **Cocoa Pink Cupcakes** recipe.

Thistle Threads

Tricia Wilson Nguyen

"I designed this snow-globe ornament for my oldest son, David. Since he was a little boy of 4, he has had a fascination with snow globes. There seems to be something about the white flakes slowly moving toward the bottom that captivates his imagination. He has been collecting them now for five years. And being the son of a designer, he has good taste. Christopher Radko seems to be his favorite, much to my pocketbook's dismay. We have spent a lot of time doing Christmas crafts with glycerin and baby-food jars trying to replicate the magic with small trinkets he has. When he saw me assembling this ornament, he was excited to make one of his own—but with a twist. In his, there are space ships flying around, and he is putting red and blue beads in it. Those are the laser beams, he tells me. Ah, the imagination of a child! Share one of these snow globes with a child you know; I am sure he or she will be as delighted as David was."

Snow Globe

	DMC®	Presencia®	
•	712	1211	cream
~	504	4218	blue green, vy. lt.
#	581	4812	moss green
♥	309	1661	rose, dk.
/	676	7139	old gold, lt.
@	760	1395	salmon
3	722	7471	orange spice, lt.

Mill Hill Glass Treasures

◆	12163	small glacier blue star snowflake (2)

Fabric: One package #T09-03 Trinkets™ Ball Ornament 18-count perforated paper sewing cards from Tokens and Trifles™

Stitch count: 47H x 47W

Design size: 2 5/8" x 2 5/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square, using two strands of floss.

Work French knot where • appears on doors, using two strands of floss and wrapping floss around needle once.

Glue charms where indicated on chart, using a dab of white craft glue.

Photo is on page 32.

Backstitch instructions:

309	window panes, bow on wreath
676	doors
581	tree

French-knot instructions:

722	door knob on orange house
760	door knobs on yellow and pink houses

Finishing materials and instructions:

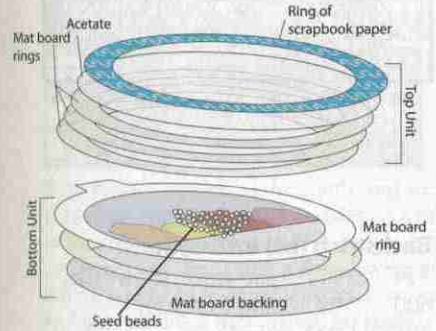
- 4" x 4" piece coordinating scrapbook paper
- 4" x 4" piece clear acetate (available at craft stores)
- 12" x 12" piece mat board
- White craft glue
- Paper-cutting scissors
- Circle cutter, such as Fiskars® Circle Cutter (optional)
- Mill Hill #42010 ice Petite Seed Beads
- 7" length twisted-cording made from DMC® 504

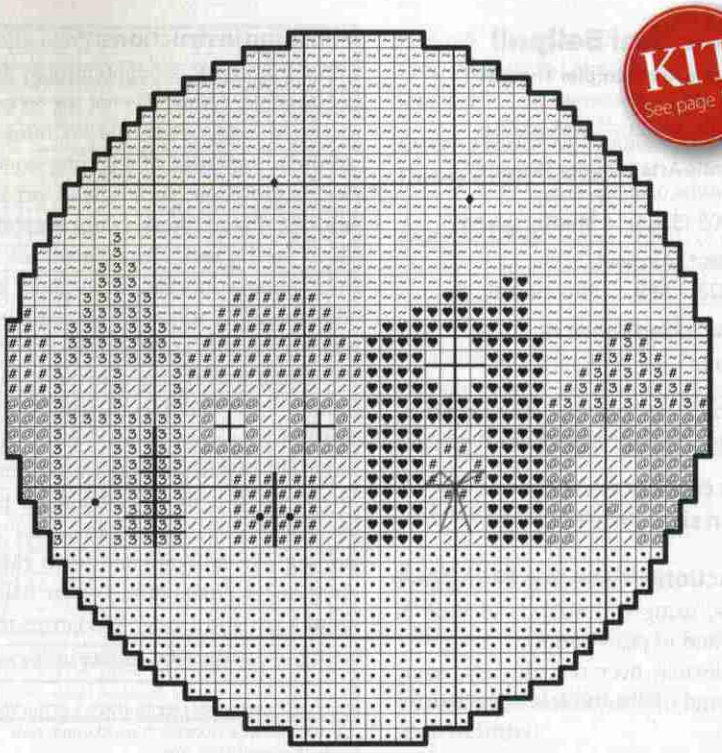
Using blank perforated sewing card as a template, cut a 3" circle from scrapbook paper and acetate. Cut six 3" circles from mat board. Using a circle cutter or paper-cutting scissors, cut out center of scrapbook paper and five mat board circles, creating rings with a 1/4"–3/8"-wide thickness.

Referring to illustration below, create bottom unit by layering one mat-board ring between stitched piece (right-side up) and solid backing; glue together. Set aside. For top unit, layer 2–4 rings and glue together. (***Note:*** *Add as many rings as necessary to allow beads to roll freely.)* Glue acetate atop rings; glue scrapbook-paper ring atop acetate. Allow to dry.

Place bottom unit right-side up atop flat surface. Cluster desired number of seed beads in center of stitched piece. Carefully align front window atop stitched piece and glue in place, taking care not to disturb beads. Place ornament under a heavy book and allow to dry completely. Loop twisted-cording hanger through top hole in paper card.

Thistle Threads, 6 Upland Road West, Arlington, MA 02474; *tricia@alum.mit.edu; www.thistle-threads.com*





©2009 Thistle Threads

Charland Designs

Charland and Sydney Garvin

"When I was thinking about writing this memory, I looked back at all the wonderful stories my mom has written over the years: the story about my parents being locked in the car with the Christmas tree strapped to the roof of the car; her story of belief and Savannah's stuffed cat Chip; the time in Africa when the Christmas tree went up in flames; and the time she unwrapped all of the Christmas presents and rewrapped them, learning to never do that again. So many beautiful stories that I wonder, how can I possibly do this tradition justice?

I realized she never wrote about herself and the many ways throughout the years she made Christmastime so special and so much fun for our family. I think back to carefully made, beautifully stitched stockings filled with Christmas wonder. The crazy Charlie Brown Christmas tree. The wonderful hand-made milk-pod ornaments so painstakingly detailed and created and given with such love. And the fun, oh, the fun. One thought comes to mind: she is an angel.

Angels represent the true spirit of Christmas. Benevolent beings who display simple acts of kindness with love and generosity, they spread joy. We are calmed simply by their presence. We all know one, have seen one, or been touched by one in some way. The angel could be your mother who, throughout the years, has brought joy to everything she touched—especially to Christmas.

I think it is important to honor these angels, and I hope to fill my entire Christmas tree with angel wings that represent them and the gratitude I feel. Thank you, Mom and thank you, angels!"

—Sydney

Rejoice Mini Bellpull

The Gentle Arts Sampler Threads™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

♥	0710 (3722)	pink azalea

The Gentle Arts Sampler Threads™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

X	7003 (3363)	shutter green

	DMC®	Anchor®	
bs	3023	899	brown gray, lt.

DMC® Pearl Cotton #8

•	blanc	white

Fabric: 12" x 6" piece 32-count confederate gray Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 73H x 25W
Design size: 4⅝" x 1⅝"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of pearl cotton.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss, unless otherwise indicated.

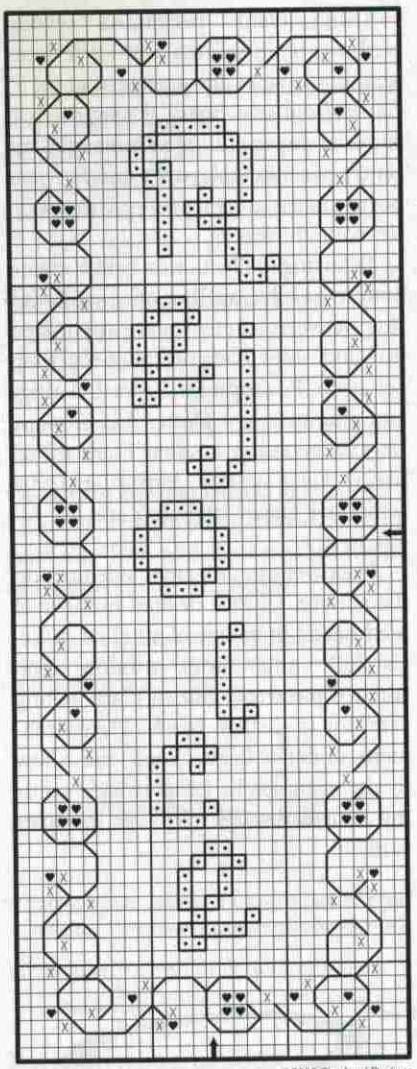
Photo is on page 33.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

3023	lettering
7003	vine (two strands)

Finishing instructions: Press stitched piece from back, straightening as much as possible. (*Note: Do not use steam as overdyed colors may run.*) Count ten threads from edge of stitching on sides and remove eleventh thread on right and left. Finger press edges back along ditch and press. Trim linen to 1½" from removed thread. Turn under sides along edge of stitching; slip stitch side seam allowance together along overlap on wrong side, taking care not to pierce front of stitched piece. Trim linen at bottom of design to 1½" from stitching; fold under seam allowance, creating a rolled hem. Whipstitch in place on back of bellpull. Repeat for top, adding 2½" bell pull hardware. (Model uses Angel Wings Mini Pewter Bellpull from Charland Designs.) Hanger made using ⅝"-wide sheer ribbon.

Charland Designs, 244 Highland Avenue, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2X7, Canada; *sydney@charlanddesigns.com*
www.charlanddesigns.com



©2009 Charland Designs

Kitty & Me Designs

Pamela Kellogg

"I hope you enjoy these wonderful and easy sugar cookies. Happy holidays!"

See page 102 for **Drop Sugar Cookies** recipe.

Happy Holidays 2009

	DMC®	Anchor®	
○	blanc	2	white
■	310	403	black
☆	334	977	baby blue, med.
◐	602	57	cranberry, med.
#	603	62	cranberry
X	604	55	cranberry, lt.
♥	605	1094	cranberry, vy. lt.
▲	912	209	emerald green, lt.
@	913	204	Nile green, med.
z	954	203	Nile green
(	955	203	Nile green, lt.
~	3756	1037	baby blue, ul. vy. lt.
bs	600	59	cranberry, vy. dk.
bs	3818	923	emerald green, ul. vy. dk.

Fabric: 9" x 10" piece 28-count white Lugana from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 53H x 67W
Design size: 3⅞" x 4⅞"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work ¼ cross stitch where small symbols appear, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch (bs) over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work French knot where ● appears, using two strands of floss and wrapping floss around needle twice.

Photo is on page 32.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

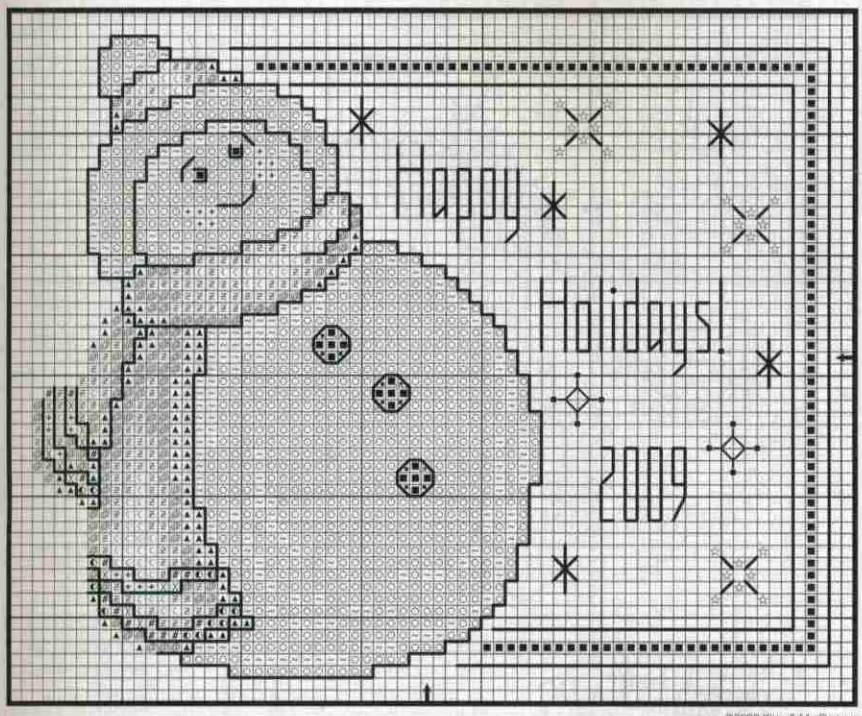
334	977	snowman, snowflakes
600	59	stripe on scarf
3818	923	scarf
310	403	remainder of backstitch

French-knot instructions:

334	977	snowflakes
310	403	lettering
blanc	2	eyes, buttons (gray dots)

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger made using purchased cording.

Kitty & Me Designs, 2208 Beachside Road, McHenry, IL 60050; *pamkellogg@kittyandme.com*; *www.kittyandme.com*



©2009 Kitty & Me Designs

Fabric: 6" x 7" piece 32-count tarnished silver linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 44H x 59W
Design size: 2 3/4" x 3 3/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of silk or cotton floss (unless otherwise indicated) or one strand of blending filament.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or one strand of blending filament.

Photo is on page 32.

Backstitch instructions:

535	front steps
001HL	remainder of backstitch

Finishing materials and instructions:

- 30" length Gloriana Threads #089 twilight 1/2"-wide silk ribbon
- 24" length Kreinik 002 silver 1/8" ribbon
- 3" x 8" piece Bristol board
- Coordinating backing fabric (Model uses #100 artemisia silk dupioni from Delectable Mountain Cloth.)
- 3" x 8" piece cotton batting
- Lightweight fusible interfacing
- Three white glass-head pins
- Craft glue
- Sewing thread

Press stitched piece from wrong side, straightening as much as possible. (*Note: Do not use steam as hand-dyed colors may run.*)

Using heart template on page 98, cut out two pieces each from interfacing, Bristol board, and batting.

Center one heart-shaped piece of interfacing against wrong side of stitched piece. Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse in place. Repeat process to fuse remaining piece of interfacing to wrong side of backing fabric.

Trim stitched piece and backing fabric to 1/2" from edge of interfacing.

Lightly glue one piece of batting to each piece of Bristol board. Allow to dry.

Beginning at bottom of heart, work a running stitch in the seam allowance of stitched piece and backing fabric. Center one piece of Bristol board, batting-side down, against wrong side of

Gentle Pursuit Designs

Cissy Smith

"I made this heart-shaped ornament of a snow scene to remind me of the special gift that my daughter, Jenny, and her aunts, Leigh and Sally, gave me this past February. Jenny said we needed to do something special for my 60th birthday, but nothing sounded quite right until she proposed a "girls weekend" in the mountains! Eleven cherished friends found their way up to Boone and Blowing Rock, North Carolina, from various corners of the South, and we made new memories to go with the ones scattered through so many decades. I've included a photo from the weekend—that's me in the scarf on the front row.

Jenny, Sally, and Leigh planned every detail from a "Cissy's Sixty Girls Weekend" mix CD, to goodie bags, hilarious games, amazing food, fun, and prizes! Some of my friends had not met when they arrived on Saturday, but by Sunday morning, they felt like they had grown up together.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart." May you have the comfort and joy of lasting friendships this Christmas season and beyond.

The chocolate ganache cake is gorgeous, and Jenny swears it is easy to make—she made it for my birthday party, and it was a huge hit!"

Comfort and Joy

	DMC®	Anchor®	
☆	3045	888	yellow beige, dk.
@	801	359	coffee brown, dk.
•	535	401	ash gray
~	3033	387	mocha brown, vy. lt.
○	3033	387	mocha brown, vy. lt. (Smyrna cross stitch)
◐	3777	1015	terra cotta, vy. dk.
▲	3031	905	mocha brown, vy. dk.

Gloriana Silk Threads

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	001	charcoal
.	102	fresh snow (two strands)
X	132	lavender ice (two strands)

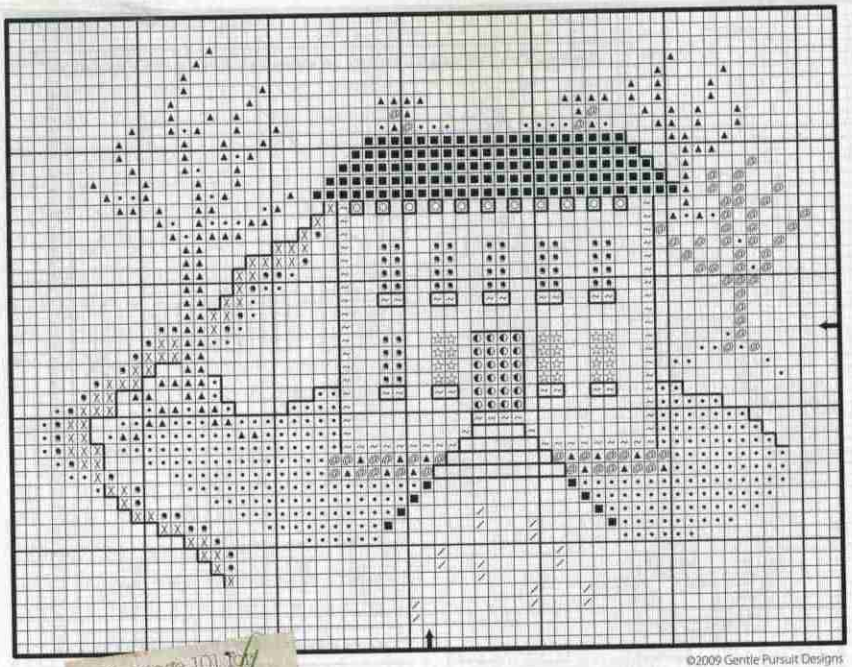
Kreinik™ Blending Filament

/	001HL	silver, hi lustre

stitched piece. Pull the tails of the running stitches to gather the seam allowances against the wrong side of the Bristol board. Knot ends of sewing thread. Press gathered seam allowance and lightly glue in place. Repeat process for remaining piece of Bristol board and backing fabric. Allow to dry.

Place front and back of ornament with wrong sides together, carefully aligning edges. Using a length of sewing thread and a ladder stitch, join sides together. Beginning at top-center of ornament and overlapping ends slightly, glue 1/8" ribbon to edge of ornament, covering the seam. Make a loop from the remaining 6" length of ribbon. Using a glass-head pin, secure ends of loop in place at top-center of ornament. Cut 1/2"-wide ribbon into three 10" lengths. Tie each into a bow. Referring to photograph for placement, attach one bow to each rounded peak and bottom of center, using glue or a glass-head pin.

Gentle Pursuit Designs, 745 Petersburg Dr., Fort Mill, SC 29708; *jbsmith224@comporium.net*



See page 101 for **Chocolate Fudge Cake with Vanilla Buttercream Frosting & Chocolate Ganache Glaze** recipe.

©2009 Gentle Pursuit Designs

Ladybug Lane Designs

Jennifer Cooke-Rabig

"When I was young, my girlfriend and I used to have the best times together. When we got a little older and thought we could cook, we invented the "Hall & Wall Kitchens" (our last names) and attempted to cook a meal for her parents. Let's just say they ate it, but I think they grimaced a lot. While I don't remember everything we made, I remember that the mashed potatoes were hard enough on top to be used as a lethal weapon. While miles and years now separate us, when we speak or see each other, it's as if time has not passed and we're still playing, laughing, and just being crazy together. "Best friends forever" applies to us, and the picture above is of the two of us years ago (Linda is the blonde on the left.) Here is her recipe for banana cupcakes; they are wonderful and can be made for holidays or any day.

My husband, Chris, and I wish each and every one of you a joyous and blessed Christmas and holiday season. And remember: Get in touch with your friends and share a cupcake or a memory."

Plaid Greetings

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	1304 (3799)	onyx
@	2264 (498)	garnet
○	4125 (blanc)	snowflake
rs	1279 (500)	holly (rice stitch)

	DMC®	Anchor®	
✳	310	403	black (Smyrna cross stitch)

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

●	00557	old gold

Just Another Button Company™

★	3319.S	small red star

Fabric: 8" x 11" piece 32-count vintage winter sky linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 44H x 50W

Design size: 2 3/4" x 3 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand 2264.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads for nose, using one strand 310/403.

Work rice stitch (rs) over four threads, using two strands 2264 for black lines and two strands 1279 for gray lines.

Attach beads, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Attach button, using two strands 2264.

Photo is on page 32.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording and trim made using Weeks Dye Works™ #2264. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95. Model was embellished with a bow made from coordinating 5/8"-wide plaid ribbon.

Ladybug Lane Designs, 8150 Pueblo Street, Mobile, AL 36619; *jennifer@ladybuglane.com; www.ladybuglane.com*

©2009 Brittercup Designs

See page 100 for **Shrimp Gazpacho** recipe.

©2009 Ladybug Lane Designs

See page 102 for **Banana Cupcakes** recipe.

Brittercup Designs

Michelle M. Lash

"Serving the same traditional food during Christmas every year can get quite boring. So, I tend to include something different with our Christmas meal. Last year, I served shrimp gazpacho, and it went over quite well. Not only is it quick and easy, it is good and low in calories."

Get Into the Spirit

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	1276 (935)	blue spruce
ш	2220 (3852)	curry
•	2278 (3326)	hibiscus
◐	2266 (321)	Turkish red

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	black coffee (310)	

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

○	7015 (433)	sarsaparilla

Kreinik Fine Braid #8

♥	003	red

Just Another Button Company™

★	3314.L	large golden star

Fabric: 8" x 9" piece 32-count summer sky hand-dyed Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 63H x 68W

Design size: 4" x 4 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of black coffee.

Work French knot where • appears in lettering, using one strand of black coffee and wrapping floss around needle once.

Work long stitch for eyes and whiskers, using one strand of black coffee.

Photo is on page 32.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger were made using purchased cording. Model was embellished using purchased 1" red and gold sheer ribbon.

Brittercup Designs, 11395 Forty Corners Street NW, Massillon, OH 44647; *michelle@brittercupdesigns.com*; *www.brittercupdesigns.com*

Cross-Eyed Cricket

Vicki Hastings

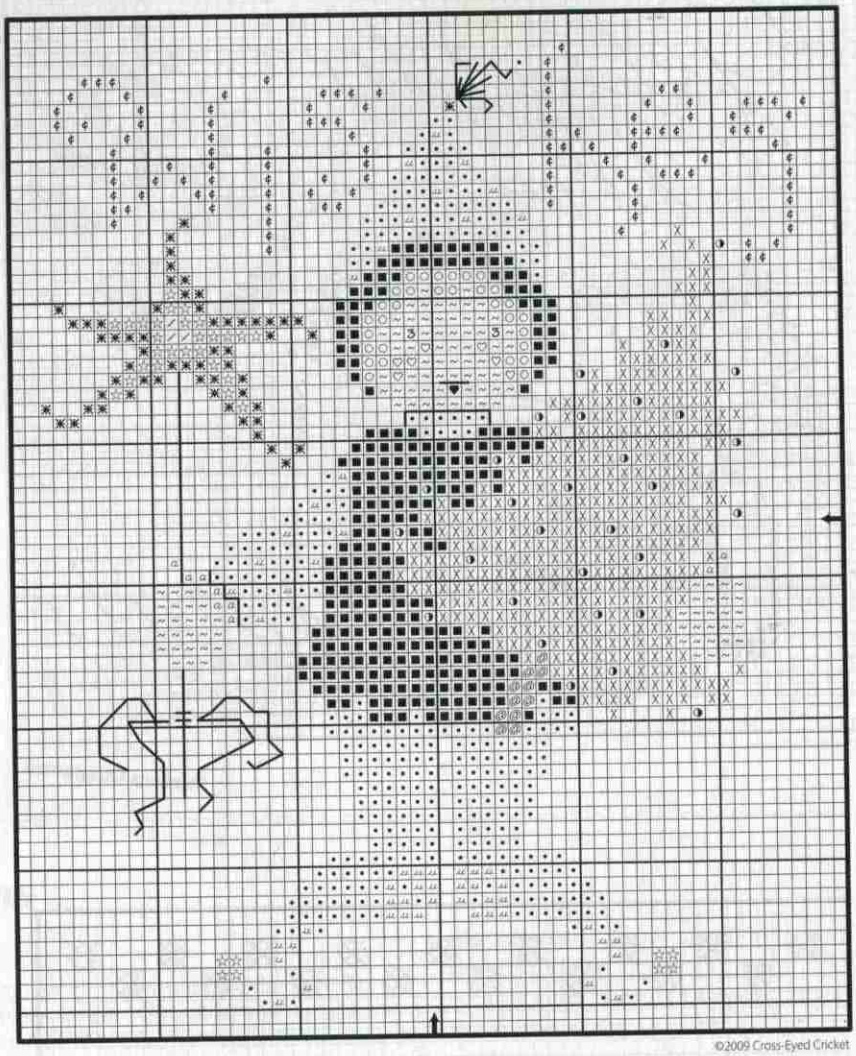
"Christmas is a time for making memories. When the treasury of memories itself is cherished, what makes a particular memory more "memorable?"

The setting adds much to the color and texture of a memory. The players are the main ingredient for they add the richness. And, there is the heart that one brings to the occasion.

Twenty-six years ago, the Cricket Collection was launched by two couples, the Odoms and the Hastings. Last Christmas, the families spent a memorable post-Christmas week together in Charleston, South Carolina. Nickie and Jimmy Odom are now retired and live in Charleston, as does their daughter Shana and her family. The Hastings family gathered in a beach house on Folly Island along with their future son-in-law and his parents.

The place was perfect. The players so dear that the memories shared by old and new friends made rich new treasures. The heart that was full to begin with overflowed.

Wishing you all a treasury of memories that knows no limit."



©2009 Cross-Eyed Cricket

Wishes

	DMC®	Anchor®	
•	3865	2	winter white
a	224	893	shell pink, vy. lt.
~	225	1026	shell pink, ul. vy. lt.
3	3810	1066	turquoise, dk.
¢	3041	871	antique violet, med.
♡	761	1021	salmon, lt.
@	610	889	drab brown, dk.
♥	335	40	rose
u	524	858	fern green, vy. lt.
■	154	72	grape, vy. dk.

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

☆	684	aquamarine
/	032	pearl
◑	024HL	fuchsia, hi lustre
✳	5002	pixiedust

The Thread Gatherer Silk'n Colors

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

X	009 (n/a)	evergreens
○	031 (3855)	soft apricot (French knot)

Fabric: 10" x 9" piece 30-count antique hydrangea linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 68H x 55W

Design size: $4\frac{5}{8}$" x $3\frac{2}{3}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or very fine braid.

Work French knot where ○ appears for hair, using two strands 031 and wrapping floss around needle twice.

Photo is on page 33.

Backstitch instructions:

3865	2	tassel on hat
154	72	collar and cuff
335	40	mouth
5002		wand handle
024HL		ribbons

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Hanger and trim were made using coordinating decorator fabric.

Cross-Eyed Cricket, 14554 Amstel Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017; cecricket@cecricket.com; www.cecricket.com

It took a Miracle
to hang the Stars
in Place
Be Merry
Let
it
snow

1

2

4

5

7

8

Blue Christmas

3

6

9

1. **Still Stitching With Susan, LLC**
   It Took a Miracle
2. **Val's Stuff**
   Be Merry
3. **Courtney Collection**
   Twitter Blue
4. **Glory Bee**
   Let It Snow
5. **HeartStrings/The Artists Collection**
   2009 Santa
6. **Elizabeth's Designs**
   Starry Starry Night
7. **Sweet Pea Designs**
   Swirly
8. **My Big Toe Designs**
   Cross of Christmas
9. **Little By Little Design Co.**
   Chilly Frillys

Still Stitching with Susan, LLC

Susan Greening Davis

"My dad was a carpenter, of sorts. He was good at making outside decorations. We had a huge Santa Claus that always went up on the roof. I remember Dad wrestling this giant thing up the ladder many a year and securing it in place by the chimney. We also had Rudolph and the manger all those years.

Dad won a number of awards for his decorations. People were always driving by our home to see his magic. Dad is gone now, but that Santa is still around—providing a challenge for my brother to get him up on Mom's roof each year. I believe I can still hear Dad talking to Santa, trying to get him to cooperate! Thanks for that memory, Dad."

It Took a Miracle

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

■	1110 (3772)	sable
@	0190 (3051)	forest glade
○	7006 (519)	old blue paint

Rainbow Gallery Sparkle Braid

ss	SK18	silver blue

	DMC®	Presencia®	
bs	311	3324	navy, med.

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 36-count antique white Edinburgh® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 40H x 36W

Design size: 3¼" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. (***Note:*** *Outline indicates stitch placement only and is not to be backstitched.*)

Backstitch (bs) over one thread for lettering, using one strand 311/3324.

Work star stitch (ss) over four threads, using one strand SK18.

Photo is on page 44.

Finishing materials and instructions:

- 7" x 6" piece Weeks Dye Works ™ #2104 deep blue sea wool felt
- Hanger from Still Stitching With Susan, LLC
- Two 12" lengths coordinating ⅝"-wide ribbon

Trim stitched piece to ¾" from fold line (represented by red line on chart). Finger press seam allowance to wrong side along fold line.

Using pinking shears, trim wool to ½" beyond folded edge of stitched piece. Center stitched piece atop wool felt; pin in place.

Using two strands 311/3324, work a running stitch over two threads (indicated by dashed lines on chart) to join stitched piece to wool felt.

Sew end of one ribbon length to back of ornament, corresponding to top-right corner of stitched piece. Thread ribbon through hanger and fold over dowel; tack in place on front of ornament at top-right corner of stitched piece, creating a 1" hanging loop. Leave excess ribbon hanging. Sew a gathering stitch at 1" intervals through the center of excess ribbon. Gather ribbon on thread to create bow and sew in place, passing needle through all layers of ribbon, fabric, and felt. Knot thread on back of ornament. Repeat process for top-left corner.

Still Stitching with Susan, LLC, 418 East Tyrell St., St. Louis, MI 48880
sgreeningd@aol.com; www.susangreeningdavis.com

See page 105 for **CJ's Dip** recipe.

Val's Stuff

Valerie Danish

"Usually, I have a photo of one or more of our cats for the *Ornament Issue*, but this year, I have to include our adorable grandson, Cooper. He makes an especially cute snowman, don't you think? We are so blessed to have a healthy, happy family, and we are totally enjoying our time as grandparents.

As the holidays approach, I always start thinking about special things I like to bake, and this recipe is one of our all-time favorites. There are many recipes for red velvet cake, but none are quite as moist or delicious as this one—I know, I've tried them all! My sister passed this one along to me many years ago, and I hope it will become a holiday tradition for you as well."

Be Merry

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

X	4139 (n/a)	Bethlehem
•	4125 (blanc)	snowflake
◐	1305 (939)	Merlin
3	2226 (3854)	carrot
♥	1339 (902)	Bordeaux
☆	2274 (3687)	romance
@	1307 (3854)	Americana
■	3900 (310)	kohl

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 20-count Dresden blue Lugana® from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 40H x 35W

Design size: 2" x 1¾"

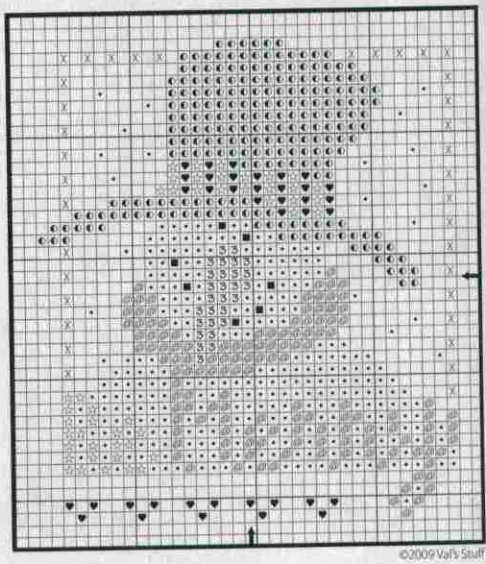
Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using two strands of floss.

Photo is on page 44.

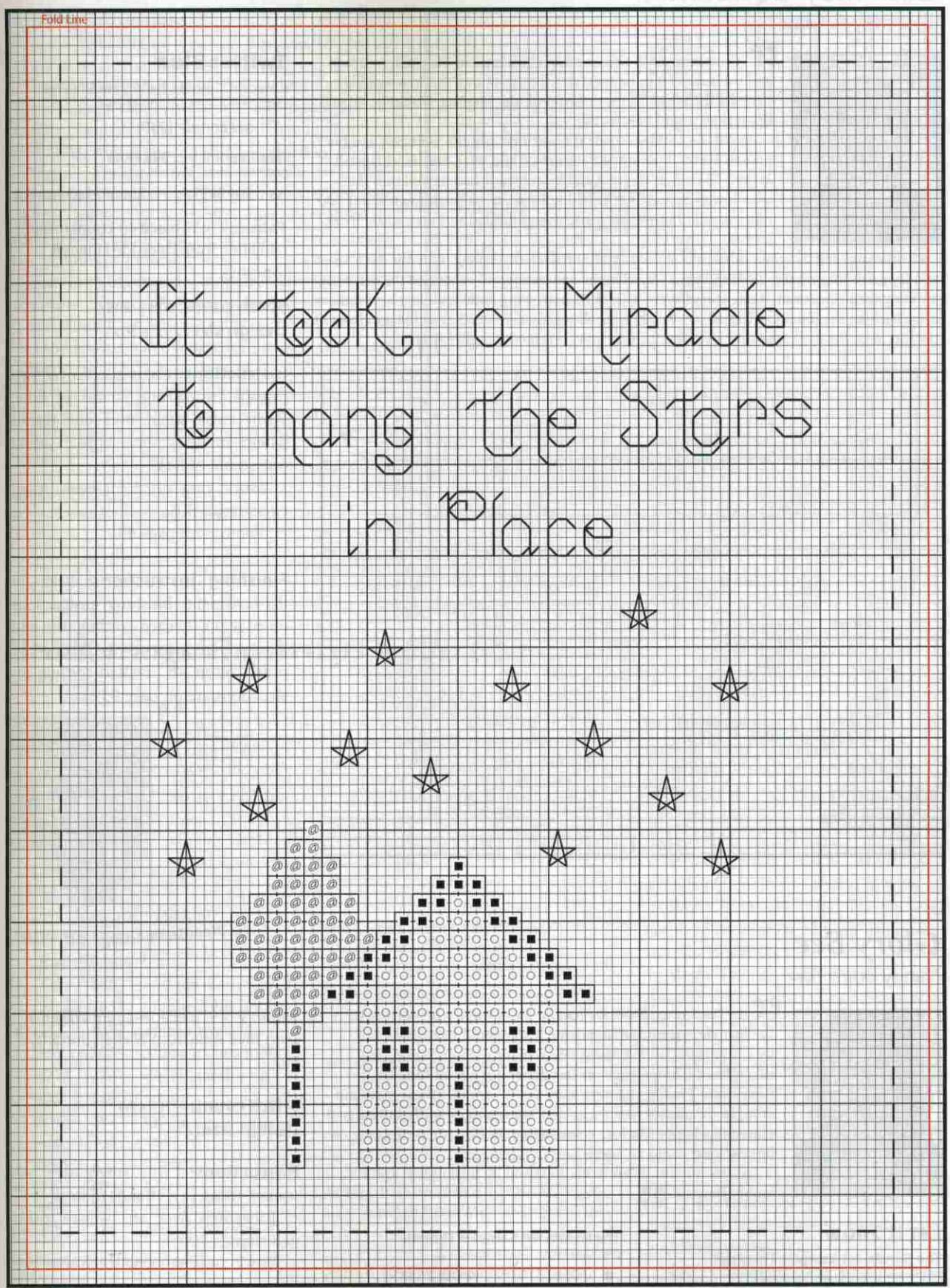
Finishing instructions: Mount in a prefinished frame. Model was embellished by adding a ⅝"-wide white satin ribbon bow.

Val's Stuff, 106 Cobblestone Hills, O'Fallon, IL 62269
valsstuff@att.net; http://pwp.att.net/p/pwp-valsstuff/

See page 106 for **Red Velvet Cake** recipe.



©2009 Val's Stuff



Note: Each square on chart represents one fabric thread.

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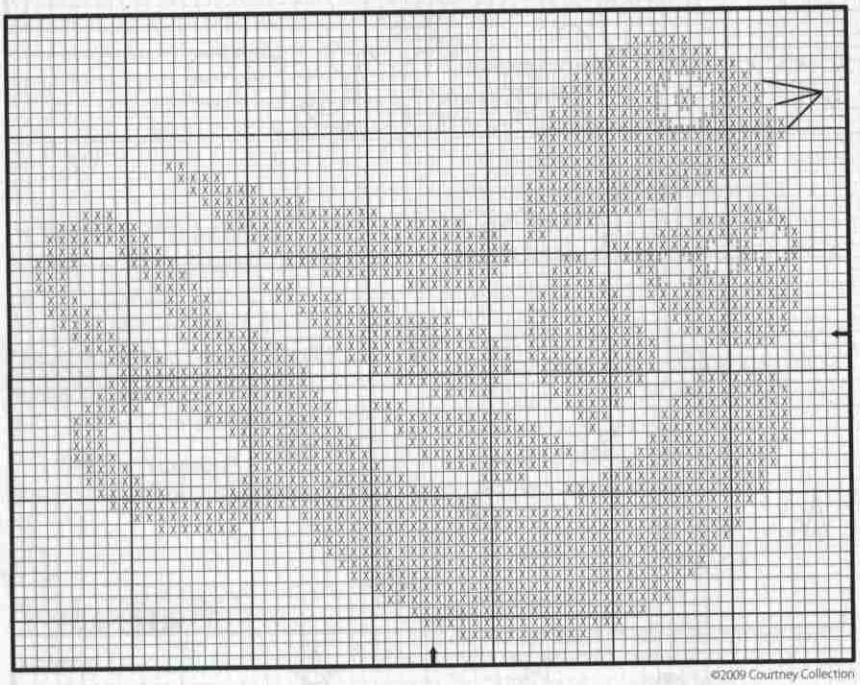
Courtney Collection

Courtney A. Glau

"Christmas 2008 was our first Christmas in Flagstaff, Arizona, and we wanted it to be special. All three of our children would be here, we'd have snow on the ground, the fireplace would be lit, and the turkey would be roasting.

Two of the children made it home fine, but the youngest and his partner had to fly from San Francisco and were due into Flagstaff at 6:00 Christmas night. A thick, wet snow had moved into the area, however, and after reaching Prescott—a small town about 100 miles south of us—their plane was grounded and they could fly no farther.

My husband and daughter piled into our car and headed south, driving from our thick snow and icy roads into a hard, blowing rain. I stayed home and periodically shoveled the driveway awaiting their safe return. Long story short—after their harrowing flight and then a slow, scary drive back up the hill into Flagstaff, we finally were all together. With all of us there in front of the fire, even the thick snow—a good foot by that time—seemed friendly!"



©2009 Courtney Collection

Twitter Blue

Crescent Colours Belle Soie Silk Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

X ocean tide (930)

Needlepoint Inc. Silk Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

ss 301 (437) antique brown, vy. lt.

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 40-count misty rain linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 50H x 66W

Design size: 2 1/2" x 3 1/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Work cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear, using one strand of floss.

Work long stitch for beak, using two strands 301.

Photo is on page 45.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® #930 pearl cotton #8. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 95.

Courtney Collection, 4756 South House Rock Trail Flagstaff, AZ 86001; *courtneycollection@yahoo.com; www.pbase.com/gglau/courtneycollection*

See page 101 for **Noodle Pudding** recipe.

Glory Bee

Nancy Boyarsky

"In December 2008, we had an ice storm in the northeast. We lost electricity and wondered if we would have power by Christmas Day. We spent twelve days without power, but the lights did come back on December 23, just in time for Christmas. Finally, the trees were lit! It seemed funny going out at night for almost two weeks and not seeing brightly burning Christmas lights. We lost power again on Christmas morning, but only for about an hour.

This recipe was given to my husband by his mother, and it's a family favorite."

Let It Snow

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@ 0860 (3350) red plum

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■ 7065 (310) wrought iron

○ 7054 (B5200) chalk

▲ 7060 (3781) picnic basket

☆ 7026 (3853) fragrant cloves

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 14-count Williamsburg blue Aida from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 41H x 41W

Design size: 3" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square, using two strands 7065.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two squares for buttons, using two strands 7065.

Photo is on page 44.

Finishing instructions: Press stitched piece from back, straightening as much as possible. (***Note:*** *Do not use steam as overdyed colors may run.*)

Trim stitched piece to 6" x 6", centering design. From decorator fabric, cut four 1" x 6" rectangles and one 6" x 6" square. Fold each 1" x 6" rectangle in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press.

Beginning at the top of ornament, place one folded strip atop stitched piece, aligning raw edges. Sew together, using a 1/4" seam allowance. Repeat for remaining sides and folded rectangles, working clockwise around the ornament.

Place front of ornament atop decorator fabric with right sides together. Pin layers together.

Sew around ornament, using a 1/2" seam allowance and leaving a 2" opening for turning. Trim seam allowance to 1/4". Trim corners of seam allowance to 1/8". Turn ornament right-side out. Stuff with fiberfill and blind stitch opening closed. Attach hanger to back of ornament, tacking in place. (***Note:*** *Model uses purchased 1/4" wide satin ribbon.*)

Glory Bee, 49 Pine Road, Ashby, MA 01431
nancy@glorybeestitch.com; www.glorybeestitch.com

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HeartStrings/The Artists Collection

Pat Thode

"It seems like the older I get, the less time I have to cook. I always thought that, at this time in my life, I would have tons of time on my hands and would be basking in a life of leisure; however, I honestly feel that I wouldn't be happy with that lifestyle. On Christmas Eve, we do finger foods. This recipe came from a friend many years ago and has stood up the test of time. The muffins can be made the morning of the party and stored in the fridge."

2009 Santa

	DMC®	Anchor®	
ℓ	778	968	antique mauve, vy. lt.
○	3752	1032	antique blue, vy. lt.
@	932	1033	antique blue, lt.
◐	931	1034	antique blue, med.
~	3774	778	desert sand, vy. lt.
/	712	926	cream
☆	437	362	tan, lt.
⁒	436	363	tan
·	blanc	2	white
■	310	403	black
ls	498	1005	red, dk.
bs	368	214	pistachio green, lt.

The Gentle Art Simply Wool™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

ш	7025W (3866)	shaker white

The Caron Collection Wildflowers™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

●	067 (3816)	celadon (French knot)

Rainbow Gallery Rainbow Tweed
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

☾	RT01 (ecru)	ecru

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

3	001	silver

Just Another Button Company™

◆	4442.S	small snowflake
★	4415.S	small red peppermint

Fabric: 10" x 10" piece 28-count denim blue Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 66H x 58W
Design size: 4 3/4" x 4 3/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of wool or very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or very fine braid unless otherwise indicated.

Work straight stitch, using two strands of floss or one strand of wool.

Work long stitch (ls) for harness and lead on bear (red lines), using two strands 498/1005.

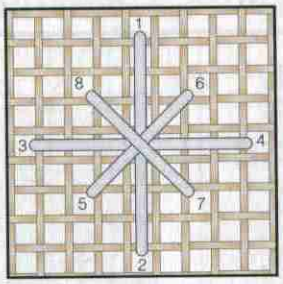
Work French knot where ● appears for bear's collar, using two strands 067 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Work star stitch over eight threads atop cross stitches, using one strand 001.

Work encroaching gobelin stitch atop cross stitches for bear, using one strand 7025W and referring to detail chart. (***Note:*** *All gobelin stitches are worked in 7025W; gray and blue lines are used to distinguish rows.*)

Attach buttons, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Photo is on page 44.



Star Stitch (Over 8)

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

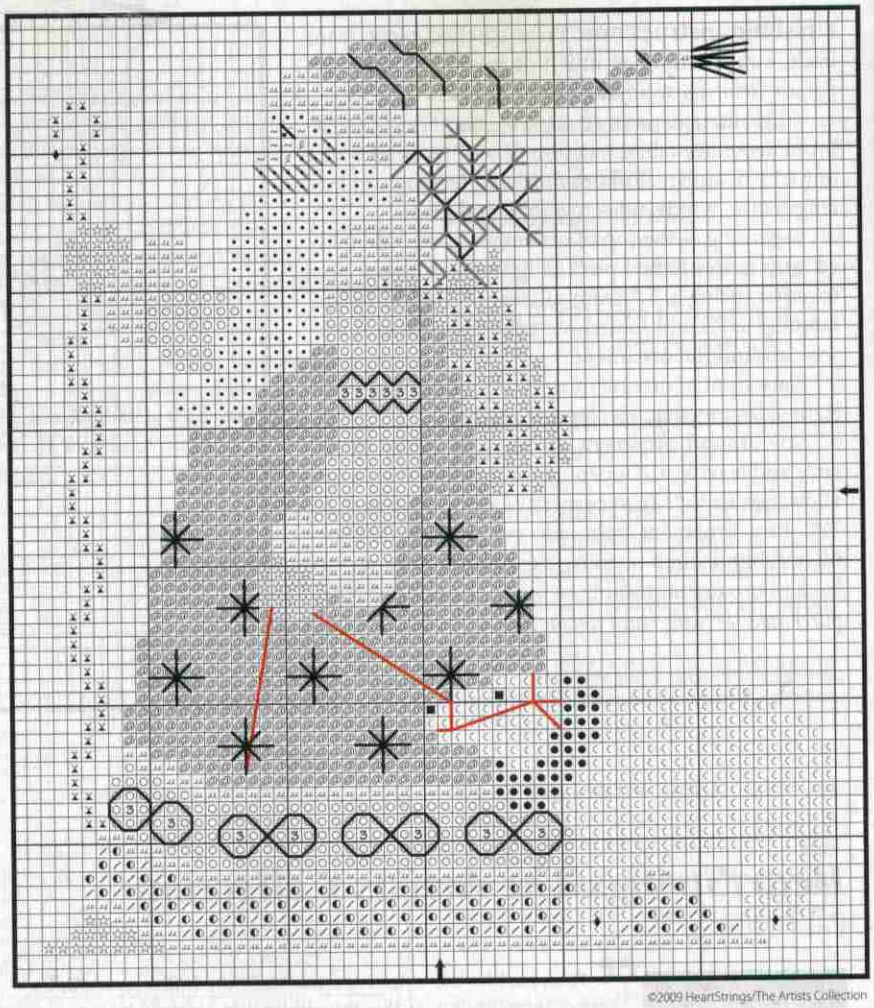
436	363	branches (black lines)
368	214	needles on branches (gray lines)
3774	778	eye (two strands)
001		designs on hat and coat

Straight-stitch instructions:

7025W		pom pom on hat
blanc	2	moustache (gray lines)

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim made using purchased cording.

HeartStrings/The Artists Collection, 2128 Grand Blvd, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
heartstrings@cfu.net; www.artistscollection.net



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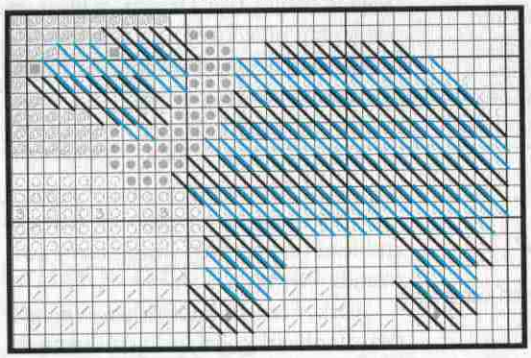
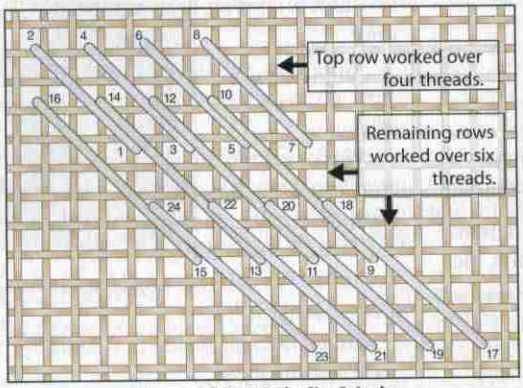
Bear Detail Chart





Encroaching Gobelin Stitch

See page 102 for **Jo's Cheese Things** recipe.

Elizabeth's Designs

Elizabeth Foster

"Happy holidays, everyone! I'd like to share with you a favorite dessert of mine for company. It's light on fat and salt and well worth the effort. Despite the reduced calories, it's very moist and delicious. The combination of blueberries and lemon is irresistible."

Starry Starry Night

	DMC®	Anchor®	
•	3865	2	winter white
bs	924	851	gray green, vy. dk.
bs	3021	905	brown gray, vy. dk.
ss	503	876	blue green, med.

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

	221	antique gold

Valdani Three Strand Hand-Dyed Cotton

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

	575 (3051)	crispy leaf

Mill Hill Magnifica Beads

○	10041	abalone

Mill Hill Glass Treasures

	12216	wooly sheep

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 28-count stoney point linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 35H x 34W

Design size: 2½" x 2½"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or very fine braid unless otherwise indicated.

Work diagonal satin stitch (ss) for trees, using two strands 575.

Attach beads, using one strand 503/876 and a cross stitch.

Attach treasure, using two strands 3865/2 and referring to photo for placement.

Photo is on page 45.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

3865	2	inner border (gray lines; two strands)
221		outer border
3021	905	tree trunks
924	851	lettering

©2009 Elizabeth's Designs

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger made using Kreinik #221 very fine braid #4. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Elizabeth's Designs, 1880 Cain Road, North Collins, NY 14111; *elizfoster@aol.com; www.elizabethsdesigns.com*

Sweet Pea Designs

Angie Williams

"My fondest memory of Christmas (or anytime) revolves around my grandmother, who was a petite woman with a sweet, sweet spirit. I always looked forward to visiting my grandparents. I remember the car trip as a little girl to her small Kansas town on Christmas Eve and entering through the kitchen door on the side porch. Light from the kitchen would glow through the old kitchen door window, which was steamed over but always had a smiling cardboard cut-out of Santa. When you crossed the threshold into her kitchen with its lavender cabinets and green linoleum floor, she would be there, arms outstretched, saying excitedly, "Oh, my little darling sweethearts!" Her kitchen would be filled with the aroma of holiday baking. Her Christmas tree was always the little scruffy pine tree that looked like it had just been brought in from the pasture, but it sparkled with silver tinsel and a variety of homemade decorations.

In 2008, I was blessed with my first grandchild, Marley Michelle. This event was made even more special because Marley already had a big sister, Brooklyn, and I got a two-for-one. My greatest desire as a grandmother is to instill confidence in my "grandgirls" with unconditional love, and I look forward to creating many memories that they will carry with them even when I am gone. Memories of my own grandmother are precious to me. I have included her recipe for banana nut bread, which we always enjoyed at Christmas and year-round."

Swirly

	DMC®	Presencia®	
○	3752	3472	antique blue, vy. lt.
•	B5200	0001	snow white
★	666	1166	red, bt.
@	704	4636	chartreuse, bt.
X	211	2687	lavender, lt.
■	310	0007	black
♡	605	2307	cranberry, vy. lt.
bs	840	8204	beige brown, med.

Rainbow Gallery Treasure Petite Braid™

✳	PB12	lavender
bs	PB09	sky blue

Just Another Button Company™

◆	3361	azalea ken

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count black linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 55H x 54W

Design size: 4" x 3⅞"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of petite braid. Work ¾ cross stitch where small symbols appear, using two strands of floss. (***Note:*** *Thin lines indicate stitch placement and are not to be backstitched.*)

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or one strand of petite braid unless otherwise indicated.

Work French knot where • appears on hat, using two strands 211/342 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Attach button, using two strands 605/1094.

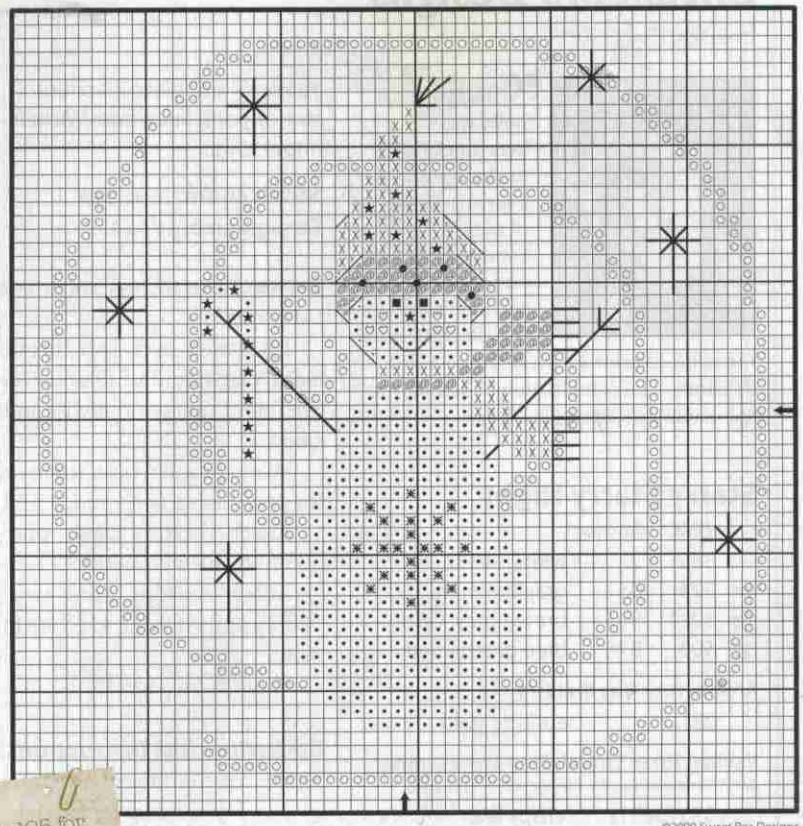
Photo is on page 44.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

840	1084	arms
704	256	hat fringe (two strands)
211	342	scarf fringe (two strands)
310	403	mouth (gray lines)
PB09		stars

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® 666 and 211. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Sweet Pea Designs, 7750 East Eagle Drive #105, Bixby, OK 74008; *awsweetpea@yahoo.com*



©2009 Sweet Pea Designs

See page 106 for **Grandma Stoneback's Banana Nut Bread** recipe.

See page 103 for **Black Bean & Rice Soup** recipe.

My Big Toe Designs

Debbie Booth

"This year, we have had a lot of changes in our lives. Our daughter is old enough to comprehend the meaning of Christmas, my parents moved away and now come back to visit, and we are starting our own traditions as a family. One of those traditions is to decorate the tree when my parents arrive. Grandma's eyes light up with joy as she watches Eliza hang the ornaments with care. Grandpa laughs as we all try to "direct" a toddler with delicate pieces of glass. My husband puts everything into perspective and just enjoys the moment. We reminisce as the ornaments are unpacked—remembering the meaning of Christmas is the birth of Christ and sharing the joy of that day with family and friends. God bless each of us as we thank Him for His sacrifice."

Cross of Christmas

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

○	1296 (932)	dolphin
■	1298 (930)	gunmetal

Fabric: 8" x 6" piece 32-count star sapphire Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 51H x 39W

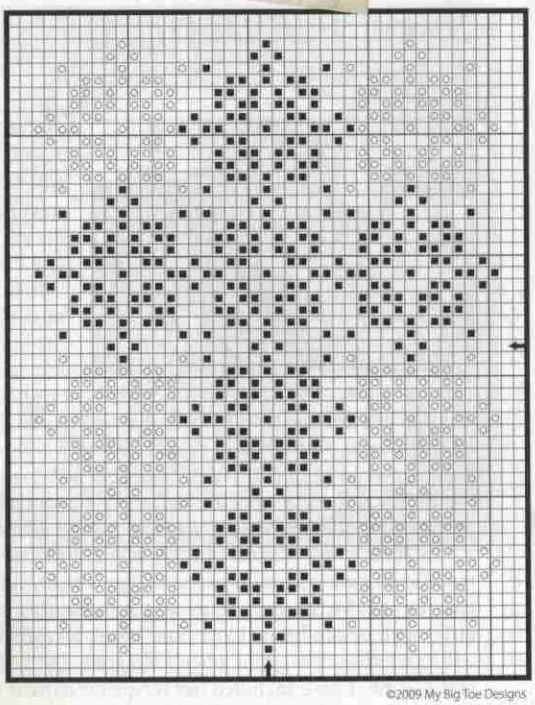
Design size: 3¼" x 1⅞"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Photo is on page 44.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger were made using coordinating ⅝"-wide sheer blue ribbon.

My Big Toe Designs, 16520 Mulberry Lane, Nampa, ID 83687; *sales@mybigtoedesigns.com; www.mybigtoedesigns.com*



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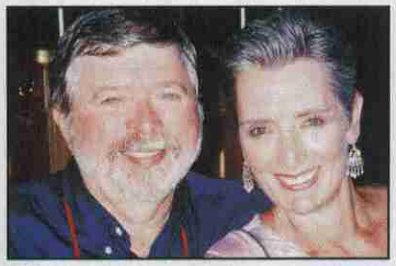
Little By Little Design Co.

Cynthia Daly Bradford



"This recipe is great for a Christmas party. I wish you joy, peace, health, and plenty this holiday season."

See page 103 for **Poinsettia Mimosas** recipe.

Chilly Frillys

	DMC®	Presencia®	
○	blanc	1000	white
♥	316	2098	antique mauve, med.

The Gentle Art Shaker Threads™
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	0111 (966)	sea spray

Fabric: 8" x 11" piece 35-count blue moon java hand-dyed linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 77H x 73W

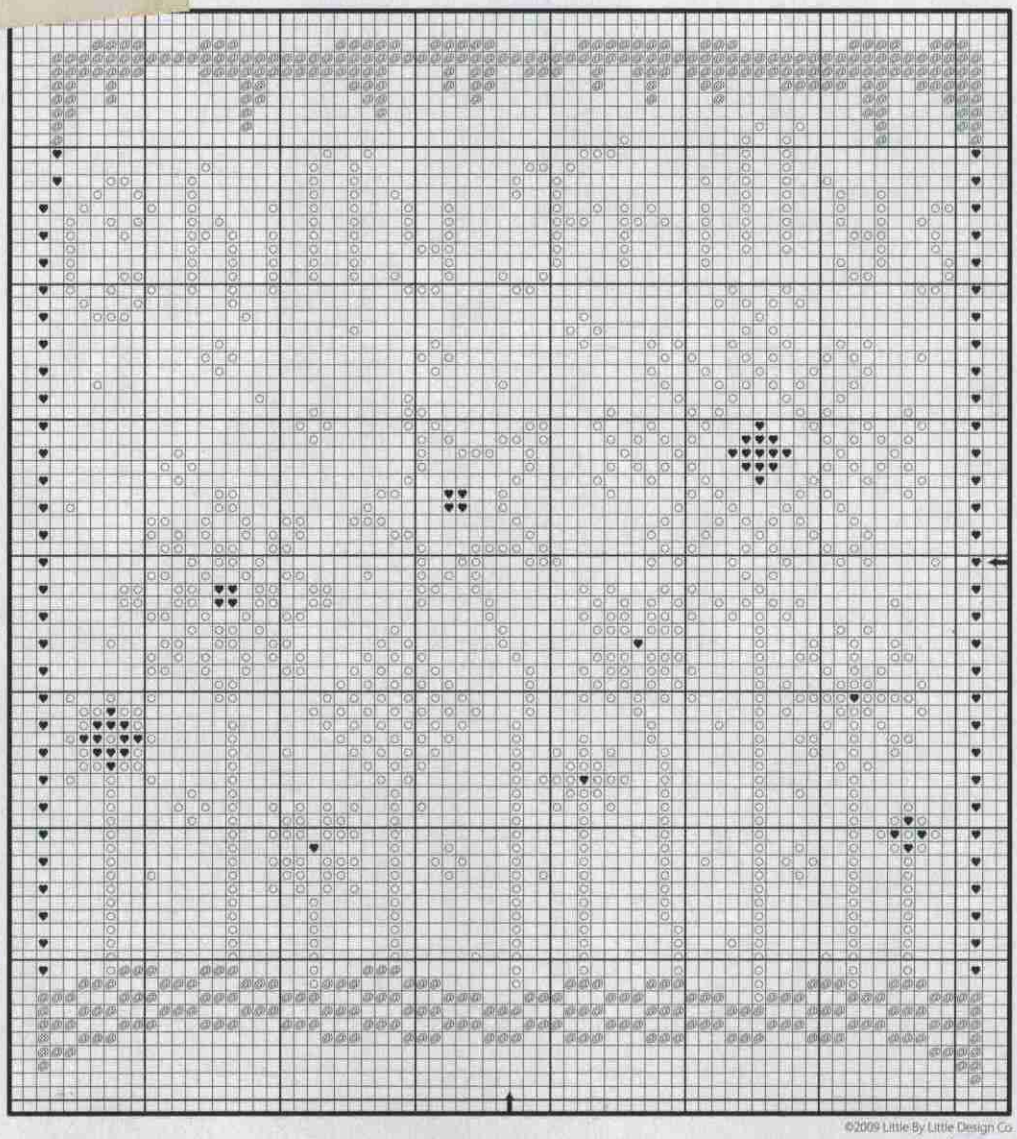
Design size: 4 3/8" x 4 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Photo is on page 45.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Model was embellished using coordinating beads. Hanger was made by twisting jewelry wire and stringing beads onto wire.

Little By Little Design Co., 14610 Huntersville-Concord Road, Huntersville, NC 28078; *cdaly4692@aol.com; www.littlebylittledesign.com*



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Merry Christmas

Old-Fashioned HOLIDAY

1. **The Primitive Needle**
   Penny Angel
2. **Cherished Stitches**
   Christmas Joy Needlebook
3. **Legacy Designs**
   Peace & Joy
4. **Brightneedle**
   Christmas in July
5. **Milady's Needle**
   A Spot of Christmas
6. **Moss Creek Designs**
   Go Forth in Splendor: Haws Scissors Safe
7. **Jeannette Douglas Designs**
   Christmas '09 Stamp Ornament
8. **La-D-Da**
   Merry Christmas
9. **The Sunflower Seed**
   Celtic Wreath

The Primitive Needle

Lisa Roswell

"When I was growing up in Olena, Ohio, the Biggs family lived down the road from me. They lived in a huge, old Victorian house near a big pond. Every winter, I would go ice skating there. When Mr. Biggs would go out and check the thickness of the ice, I could hardly wait until he said it was safe to skate. They had a box full of ice skates, which I would rummage through until I found a pair my size, then out to the pond I'd go. There were five kids in their family—Brian, Barb, Bambi, Brent, and Bev—and their St. Bernard, Ike. Back then, long stocking hats were in style. We'd be out there skating, and Ike would run up from behind, snatch the stocking hat and take off! We had so much fun. I feel so fortunate to have had them for neighbors.

I'd like to share my recipe for deviled eggs. Have a wonderful Yuletide season!"

Penny Angel

Crescent Colours Belle Soie Silk Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- tumbleweed (822)
- ■ noir (3799)

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- ☆ whatley woodlands (167)

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 40-count vintage sand dune Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 70H x 47W

Design size: 3½" x 2⅜"

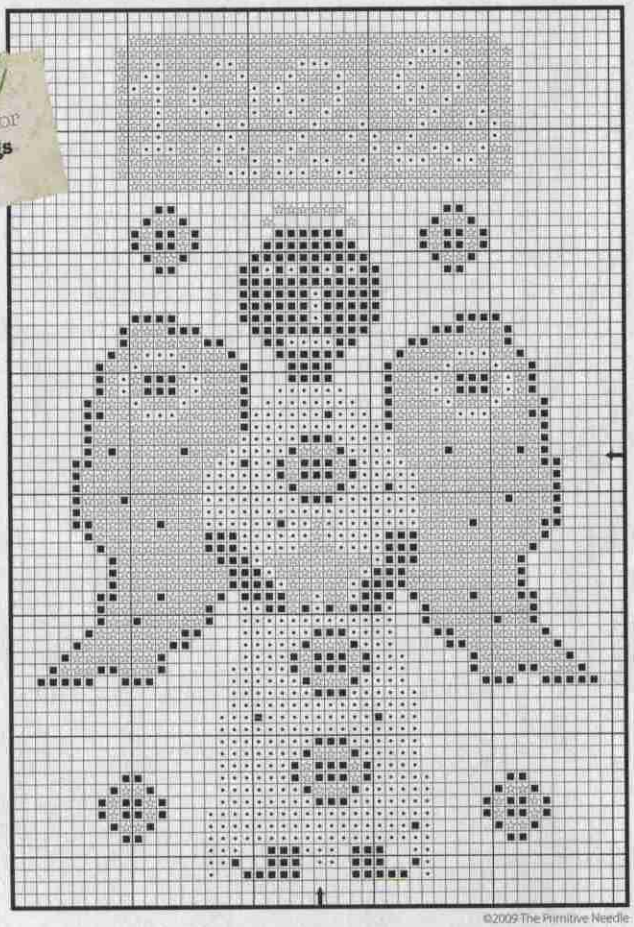
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Photo is on page 54.

Finishing instructions: Mount stitched design in a purchased frame. Hanger was made using coordinating ribbon.

The Primitive Needle, 4 West Main Street, North Fairfield, OH 44855; *primitiveneedle@aol.com; www.theprimitiveneedlehome.com*

See page 104 for **Deviled Eggs** recipe.



©2009 The Primitive Needle

Cherished Stitches

Louise Henderson

"Merry Christmas! I wish you and yours a joyous holiday."

Christmas Joy Needlebook

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- ■ 2202 (936) bullfrog

The Gentle Arts Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- ○ 0510 (801) cinnamon

The Gentle Arts Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- @ 7068 (3721) rose garden

	DMC®	Anchor®	
bs	936	846	avocado green, vy. dk.
bs	739	366	tan, ul. lt.

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 36-count buttercream linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 64H x 64W

Design size: 3⅝" x 3⅝"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch (bs) over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads where ✳ appears, using one strand 7068.

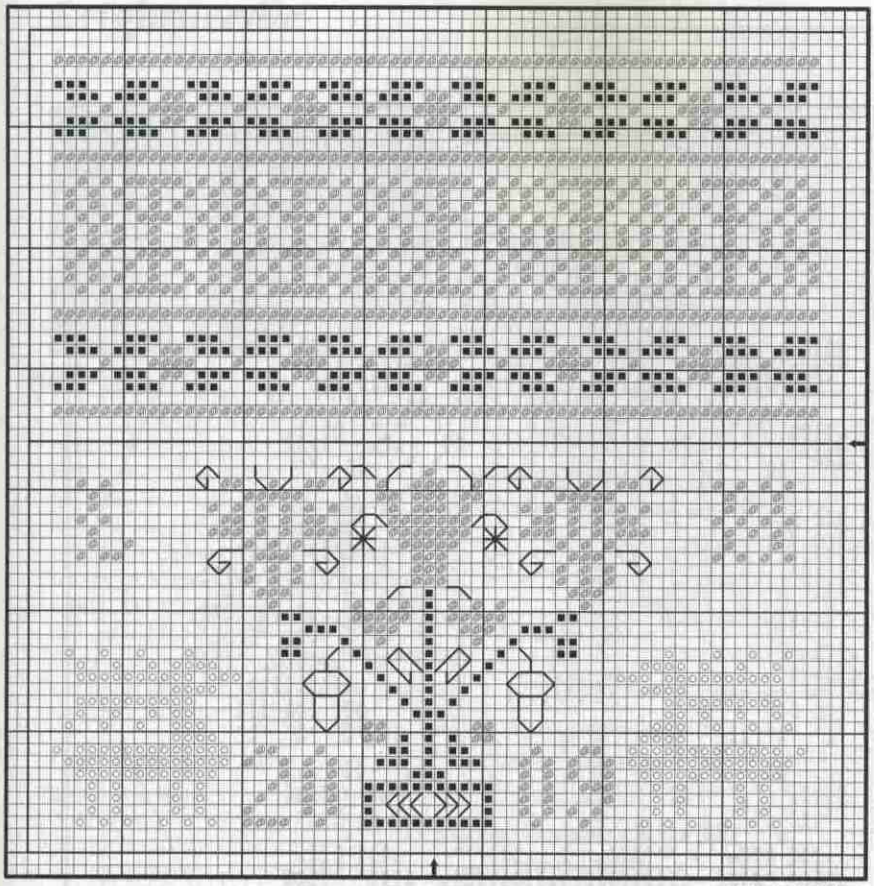
Personalize, if desired, using the cross stitch alphabet on page 99 and two strands 7068.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

739	outer border and spine
2202	acorns, lower vines, bottom of stand
7068	remainder of backstitch

Finishing materials and instructions:

- 6" x 6" piece coordinating lining fabric (Model uses green silk dupioni.)
- 4" x 4" piece cotton batting
- 4" x 4" piece wool flannel
- 4" x 4" piece Bristol board
- 4" x 4" piece Strathmore two-ply museum (rag) board
- Scoring tool
- Acid-free glue
- 1 yd. coordinating ¼" wide silk ribbon, cut into two 10" pieces and one 16" piece



©2009 Cherished Stitches

Press stitched piece from back, straightening as much as possible. (***Note:*** *Do not use steam as overdyed colors may run.*) Trim stitched piece to ½" from backstitched outline. Using trimmed piece as a template, cut lining fabric to same size. Trim batting, Bristol board, and museum board to fit just within backstitched border of stitched piece. (***Note:*** *These pieces should be square.*) Find the center of Bristol board and museum board and score a line; fold in half.

Place batting against wrong side of stitched piece. Place museum board against batting, with scored fold line aligned with center backstitched line of stitched piece. Clip corners of stitched piece to reduce bulk. Fold seam allowances over edge of museum board and glue in place. Allow to dry.

Using pinking shears or decorative scissors, trim wool flannel so that it is ⅜" smaller than Bristol board. Fold flannel and lining fabric in half and finger press to crease fold. Place center folds together and pin flannel to right side of lining fabric. Using two strands 936/846, sew wool to lining fabric along center crease, using a backstitch or chain stitch. Place Bristol board against wrong side of lining fabric, with folded edges aligned and scored line in Bristol board facing away from fabric. Using pencil, mark edges of board on wrong side of fabric and trim seam allowance to ½" from drawn line. Clip corners of lining fabric to reduce bulk. Fold seam allowances over edge of board and glue in place. Allow to dry.

Place the wrong sides of Bristol board and museum board together and glue in place. (***Note:*** *Leave a small area unglued at center-bottom edges of front and back cover to accommodate ribbon closures.*) Allow to dry. Using two strands 936/846 and a ladder stitch, sew lining fabric and cover together, passing needle through each stitch of outer backstitched border with each ladder stitch. When bottom-center of front and back cover is reached, insert one end of 10" ribbon and secure between cover and lining with ladder stitches. When beginning point is reached, knot thread and bury tails between layers. Tie ribbons to secure book closed. Insert 16" length of ribbon into book, along spine, and tie ends into a bow to form hanger.

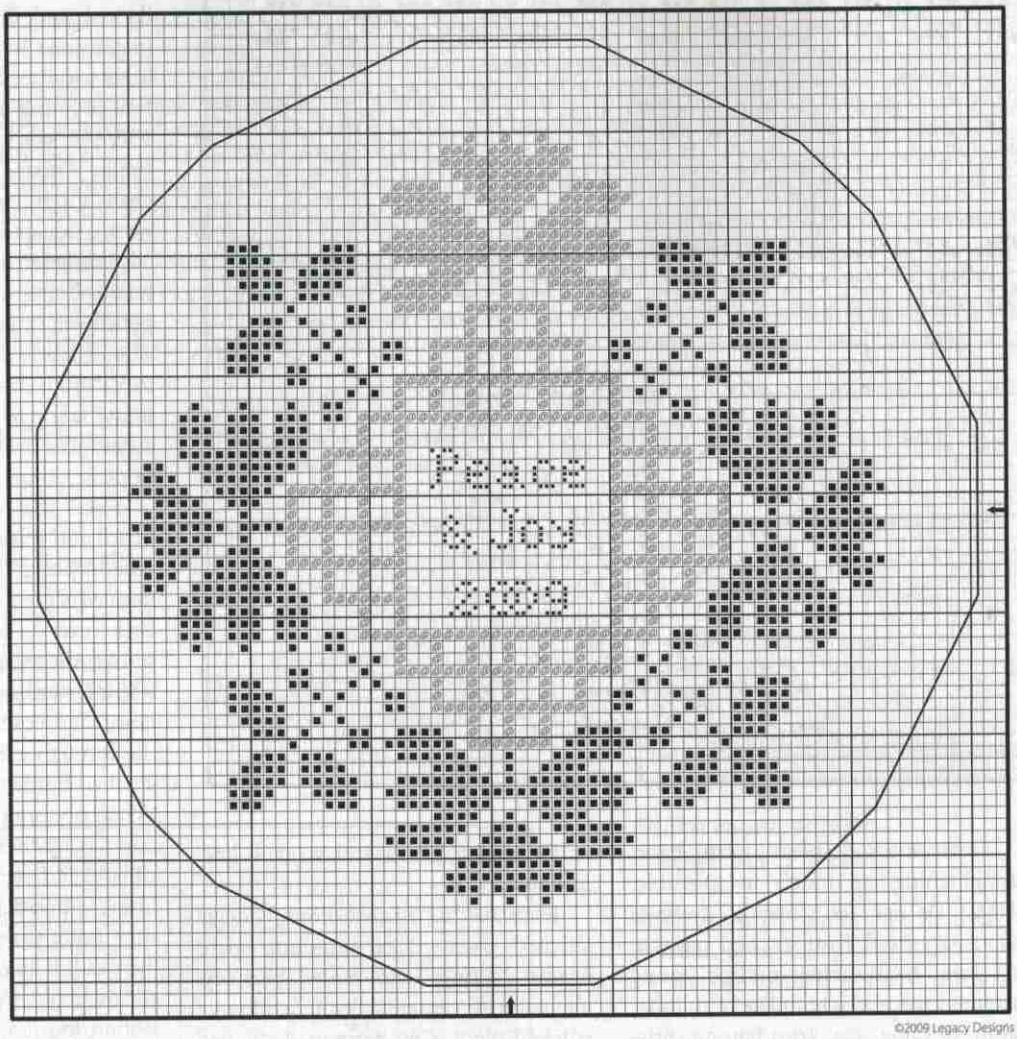
Cherished Stitches, 1310 Westridge Road, Greensboro, NC 27410; *lucystitch@earthlink.net*; *www.cherishedstitches.com*

Legacy Designs

Fran Colburn

"In 1984, my husband and I moved to Wilmington, Delaware, and soon discovered Kennett Square mushrooms.

This is a wonderful recipe for the holidays because it can be served hot or cold, makes a great hors d'oeuvre or vegetable side dish, and works equally as well at parties or sit-down dinners."



©2009 Legacy Designs

Peace & Joy

Gumnut Yarns Stranded Silk Stars

Anchor® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	859 (862)	salmon, ul. dk.
■	629 (1025)	eucalyptus, ul. dk.

Rainbow Gallery Splendor Silk

Anchor® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

X	S1012 (365)	old gold

Fabric: Two 8" x 11" pieces 40-count autumn gold linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count:

Front: 64H x 63W Back: 69H x 68W

Design size:

Front: 3 1/4" x 3 1/4" Back: 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Work double-running stitch for outline of ornament, using one strand S1012.

Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work tent stitch over one thread where small symbols appear, using one strand 629.

Repeat double-running outline on second piece of linen for back of ornament. Personalized as desired, or use alphabet chart (used for model) on page 99.

Photo is on page 55.

Finishing instructions: Following manu-facturer's instructions, fuse a piece of lightweight interfacing to wrong side of both pieces of linen. Cut out ornament, leaving a 1/4" seam allowance. Finger press seam allowance to wrong side; notch curves. Place front and back with wrong sides together. Using two strands S1012, lace together through running stitches, leaving top of ornament open; stuff lightly with fiberfill and lace opening closed. Model was embellished using purchased 3/8"-wide gold ribbon.

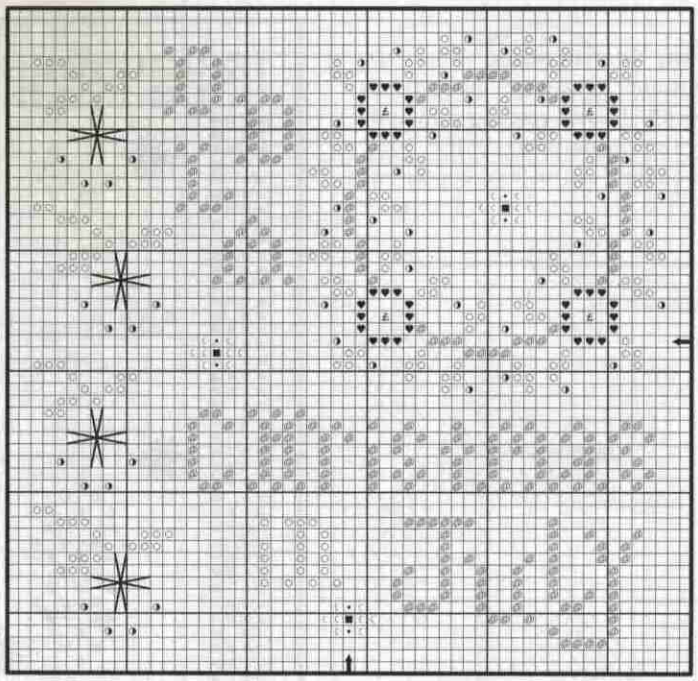
Legacy Designs, 106 Farragut Way #248, Kennebunk, ME 04043; *legacy_designs@roadrunner.com*

See page 102 for **Marinated Mushrooms** recipe.

Brightneedle

Ann Petit and Liz Knudsen

"Every July, we get together with two other friends and celebrate Christmas in July. We decorate the house, cook wonderful food, and each bring an ornament we've stitched to exchange (usually out of the past year's *Just CrossStitch Ornament Issue*, I might add). It's always a lovely day of stitching, eating, and relaxing—we enjoy the best of a special season without the pressures that can accompany it. We encourage you to do the same and start what may become a cherished tradition."



©2009 Brightneedle

Christmas in July

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	1193 (3012)	guacamole
£	1223 (834)	Schneckley
♥	1333 (3777)	Lancaster red
○	2196 (523)	scuppernong

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

◑	red currant (902)	

DMC® Anchor®

•	676	891	old gold, lt.
C	945	881	tawny
■	3863	378	mocha beige, med.

Fabric: 5" x 5" piece 32-count examplar linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 51H x 52W

Design size: 1 2/3" x 1 2/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. Personalize if desired, using a favorite cross-stitch alphabet and one strand 206.

Work vertical and horizontal elongated cross stitch over five threads, using one strand 1333.

Photo on is page 54.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger was made using DMC® 3012, 3013, and 221 pearl cotton #5.

Brightneedle, 457 Castle Street, Geneva, NY 14456
pettitam@fltg.net; www.brightneedle.com

Milady's Needle

Gloria Moore

"When I was growing up, all of our Christmases were filled with good food and great company. My mother always baked a lot of different Christmas cookies. Now, my sister Shirley is the cookie queen. Even when I am not home for Christmas, I receive cookies in the mail, which is always a treat. My favorite cookies are my mother's toffee bars. I hope you enjoy these as much as I do each year."

A Spot of Christmas

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

~	1225 (782)	tiger's eye
X	2159 (319)	seaweed

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

◐	0360 (814)	cranberry

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

•	7054 (blanc)	chalk

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	rainy day (158)	
■	Erin go emerald (500)	

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

○	42012	royal plum

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 36-count sand dune linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 67H x 67W

Design size: 3 3/4" x 3 3/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear, using one strand of floss. Personalize, using alphabet on page 99.

Work long arm cross stitch over two threads for stripes on stocking, using one strand 0360.

Work star stitch variation over eight threads, using one strand 7054.

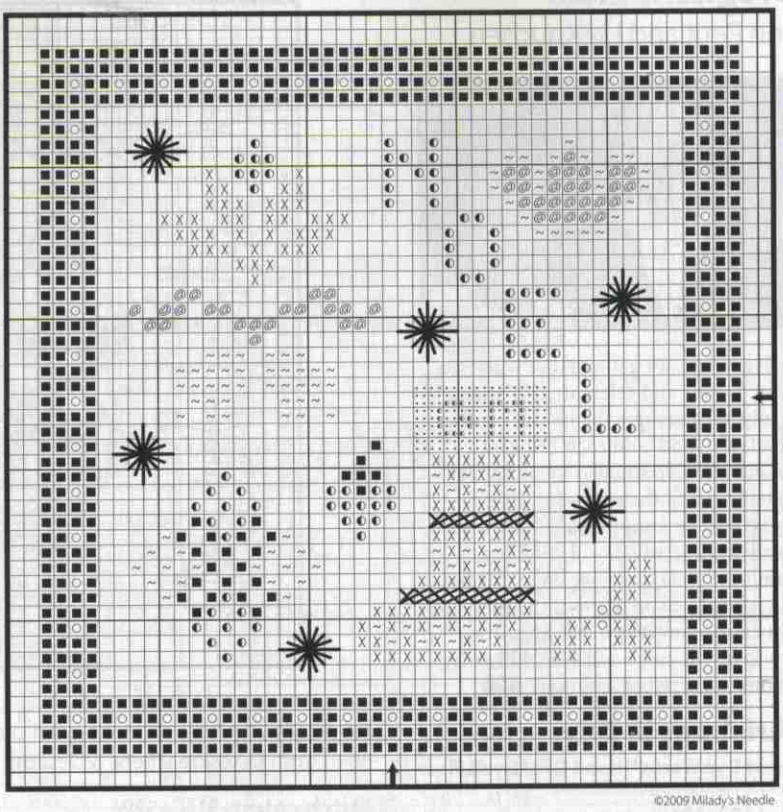
Attach beads, using one strand 0360 and a cross stitch.

Photo is on page 54.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® 500. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Milady's Needle, 1510 Briar Meadow Drive, Keller, TX 76248; *gloria@miladysneedle.com*; *www.miladysneedle.com*

See page 103 for **Toffee Bars** recipe.



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Moss Creek Designs

Rae Iverson

"As I promised, this year's ornament is a continuation of the *Go Forth in Splendor* accessories set. The scissors safe is in the shape of a Scottish pocket from the Middle Ages that the owner would have worn tied around her waist under her clothing to keep her coins and valuables safe from robbers.

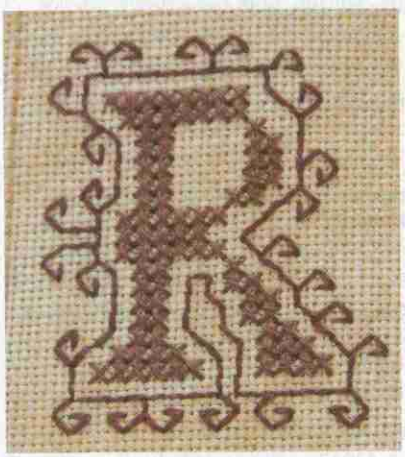
The design on the front, a stylized sprig of haws (berries) from the hawthorn tree, is full of every day practicality, legend, and history. We know that hawthorn trees thrive in the Scottish climate, have been the preferred bush for dense hedgerows, and were the dwelling place of fairies, elves and assorted wee folk of Celtic legend.

Somewhere between history and legend lies the tree's connection to the holiday season, and the major player is Joseph of Arimathea. The Bible tells us that Joseph was a wealthy man, very likely a secret disciple of Jesus, and the man who removed his body from the cross. We also know that, in the company of Mary and others, he had the body wrapped in linen and sequestered in Joseph's own burial tomb.

In the highly detailed eighth-century writings of the Archbishop of Mayenne, we are told the story of Joseph and his followers making their way to Britain by way of well-known trade routes developed by the Phoenicians. Once in Britain, Joseph is said to have struck his staff upon the ground only to have it take root, leaf and burst into blossom as a hawthorn tree. This place, Glastonbury Tor in the south west of England, is the site of Glastonbury Abbey, which Joseph purportedly founded to celebrate the miracle of the hawthorn.

Part of the miracle of the Glastonbury Thorn is that, separate from all other hawthorn species, it blooms twice a year: once at Easter when the blossoms also produce seed-bearing haws, then again at Christmas when no haws follow the bloom. The original tree was cut down, chopped to bits and burned by Cornwall's men during the Reformation. What they didn't know was that cuttings from the tree were everywhere on the grounds, and, in short order, a second Glastonbury Thorn was planted at the site of Joseph's miraculous staff. The tree at the site on the hill today is believed to be a shoot from the second Glastonbury Thorn grafted onto a common blackthorn to ensure the tradition of the December blooming before the donor tree died in 1991.

The cutting of the Queen's branch has been an annual ceremony at the Glastonbury Abbey School for several centuries. The eldest student, surrounded by students and staff, snips off a branch in full bloom, which is sent to the Queen to decorate her Christmas breakfast table."



Back of Scissors Safe

Go Forth in Splendor: Haws Scissors Safe

Needlepoint Inc. Silk

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	715 (3802)	wine, dk. (queen stitch)
✳	714 (3726)	wine, med. (queen stitch)
○	712 (316)	wine, lt. (queen stitch)
dr	763 (436)	gold, dk.
dr	296 (319)	green, dk.
dr	293 (320)	green, med.

Fabric: Two 7" x 5" pieces 32-count vintage country mocha Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 65H x 36W

Design size: 4 1/8" x 2 1/4"

Instructions: Work broad chain stitch over two threads for outer border, using one strand 715. Work double-running (dr) stitch over two threads for inner border (gray lines), using one strand 763. Repeat both borders on second piece of linen for back of scissors keep; set aside.

Work Renaissance herringbone stitch for stem, using one strand 296 for black lines and one strand 293 for gray lines.

Work double-running stitch over two threads, using one strand 296 for stems of berries and one strand 293 for berry caps.

Work queen stitch over four threads for berries, using one strand of floss. (***Note:*** *Outlines indicate stitch placement only and are not to be backstitched.*)

Work side-by-side detached buttonhole loops at top-center of front piece, using one strand 715. (**Note:** *Placement of detached buttonhole loops is indicated on chart.*)

Personalize back piece, if desired. Back of model was finished with an elaborate Scottish letter from *More Alphabets from Early Samplers* by Marsha Van Valin, published by the Scarlet Letter.

Photo is on page 54.

Finishing instructions:

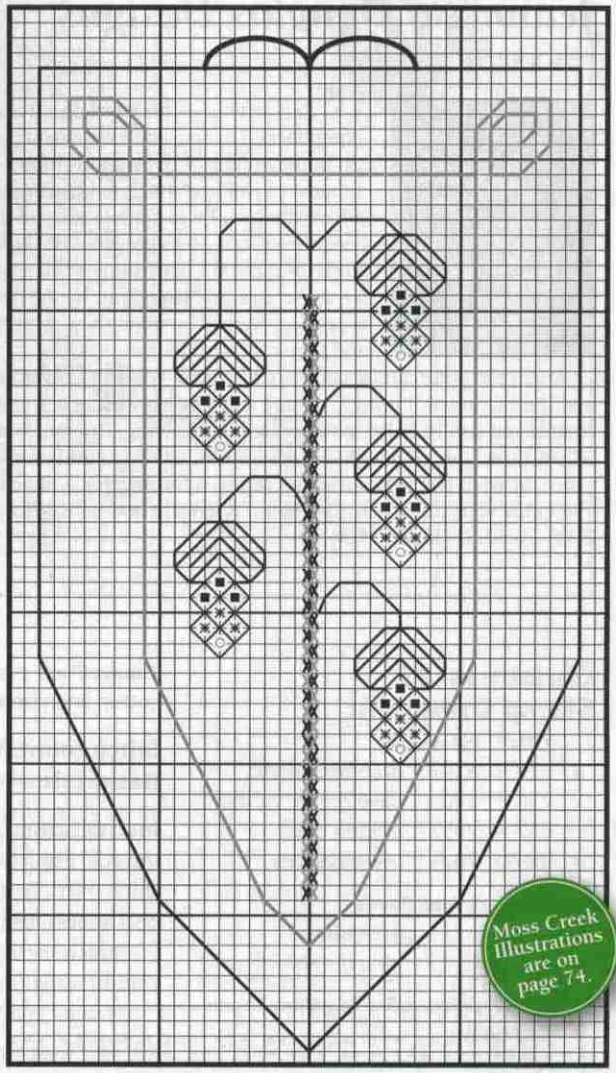
- 6" x 6" piece of Warm & Natural cotton batting
- 7" x 7" coordinating lining fabric (model uses burgundy silk dupioni)
- 3" tassel with twisted-cording hanging loop made from NPS 714
- 10" length twisted cording made from NPS 714

Using sewing machine, sew a line 1/2" beyond from broad-chain stitch border on both pieces. Trim away excess fabric just beyond sewn line. Spritz stitched pieces with water, press from wrong side, and let dry. Using trimmed stitch piece as a template, cut out two pieces from lining fabric. Set aside lining fabric.

Trim two pieces of interfacing to fit just within broad-chain stitch border. Baste one piece of interfacing to wrong side of each stitched piece. Miter corners and turn under seam allowances. Lightly attach seam allowance to interfacing with herringbone stitch and one strand of light-colored floss.

Trim batting to fit just over the seam allowance edge. Attach lightly to seam allowance only with herringbone stitch. Remove interfacing basting threads.

Sew the twisted-cording hanging loop of tassel to seam allowance at bottom point of scissors safe. Fold 10" length of twisted cording in half; sew to seam allowance at top-center of back piece (tacking stitches will be covered by lining fabric). Make a knot 1/2" from each end of twisted-cording length and trim ends to create 1/2" tassels.



Moss Creek Illustrations are on page 74.

©2009 Moss Creek Designs

Turn under a 1/2" seam allowance for each lining piece. Resulting piece should be slightly smaller than folded edge of stitched piece. Blind stitch a lining piece to each stitched piece, using coordinating sewing thread.

Place stitched pieces with lining-sides together. Using one strand 715 and starting at a top corner, join pieces together along sides and bottom with broad-chain lacing stitch. Leave the top edges open for scissors. Slide ends of twisted cording through each detached buttonhole-stitch loop and tie a bow to close.

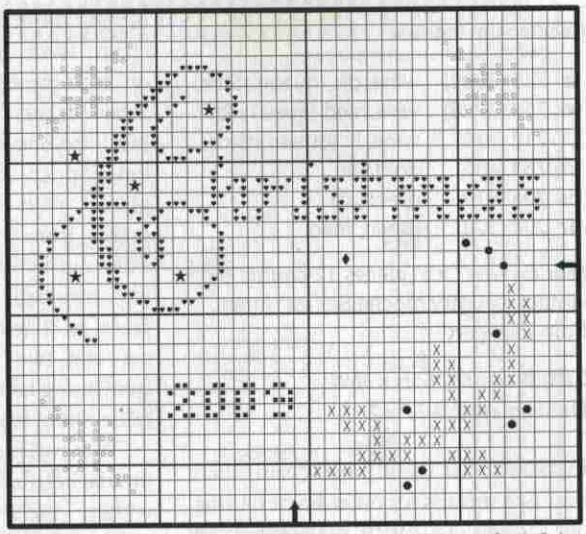
Moss Creek Designs, PO Box 7066, Cave Creek, AZ 85331; *info@mosscreekdesigns.com; www.mosscreekdesigns.com*

Jeannette Douglas Designs

Jeannette Douglas

"Renovations—this word describes new experiences, change, and excitement. Yes, I am in the middle of renovations in my office. As most of you know, before I began designing needlework I was a nurse and did not need the office I do today. Now, the girls who work for me and I need some work space, so we are renovating. Hopefully, by the time this is printed, we will be in our new work-place, and I look forward to it.

Much the same can be said for Christmas. We look forward to it and the excitment it brings, visiting and sharing with new and old friends and family. I also look forward to receiving Christmas cards. When I send mine, though sometimes late, I always check at the post office for what the new Christmas stamp is for the year. I hope that you enjoy your tiny Christmas stamp ornament and remember your 2009 Christmas fondly."



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Christmas '09 Stamp Ornament

	DMC®	Presencia®	
■	610	8327	drab brown, dk.
X	730	5400	olive green, vy. dk.
○	832	7057	golden olive
♥	3857	7825	rosewood, dk.

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

●	02075	grenadine
★	02098	pine green

Charland Designs Inc. Sterling Silver Charm

◆ tiny holly

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count antique cotton linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 30H x 34W

Design size: 1 7/8" x 2 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear, using one strand of floss.

Attach beads, using one strand of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Attach charm, using one strand 832/907.

Photo is on page 55.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger made using DMC® 3857 and 730. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Jeannette Douglas Designs, 708 Coach Bluff Crescent SW, Calgary, AB T3H 1A8, Canada
info@jeannettedouglas.com
www.jeannettedouglas.com

La-D-Da

Lori Markovic

"This recipe makes a wonderful snack food for the holidays. I hope you enjoy!"

Merry Christmas

Gloriana Hand Dyed Silk Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	114 (n/a)	red clay
@	010 (n/a)	winter woods
~	186 (842)	birch brown
☆	086 (782)	antique gold, dk.

Fabric: 8" x 11" piece 30-count mocha linen from Weeks Dye Works™

Stitch count: 43H x 94W

Design size: 2 7/8" x 6 1/3"

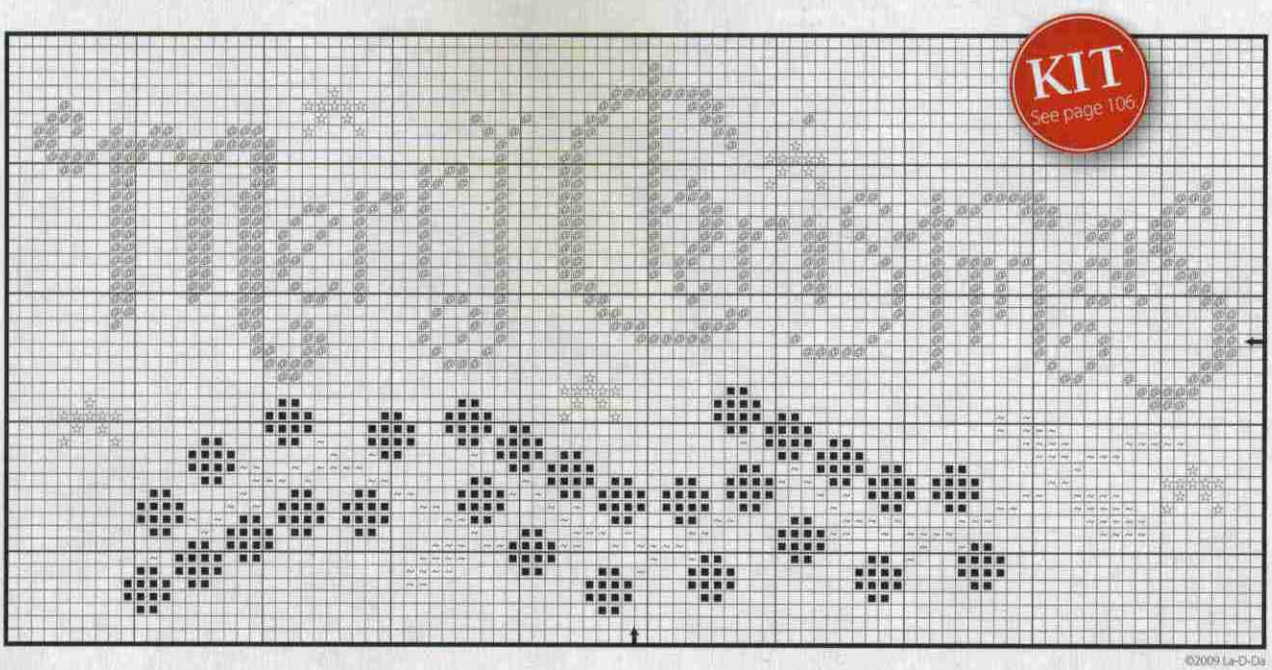
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Photo is on page 54.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim made using coordinating rick rack. Hanger made using purchased 1/4"-wide grosgrain ribbon. Model was embellished with two jingle bells threaded onto Buscilla #7115 burgundies 7mm silk ribbon.

La-D-Da
1226 Cleveland Avenue
Racine, WI 53405
e-mail: *lorimarkovic@hotmail.com*

See page 102 for **Grammy Bea's Holiday Nuts** recipe.



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The Sunflower Seed

Anita Boatright

"Christmas 2008 was a monumental Christmas for our family. Our first grandchild was 9 months old, and what a joy to watch! It certainly brought back memories of our two sons as babies at Christmastime—their cute little hands bouncing the packages by the ribbons, and crawling around, tugging on the cat or dog. One year, our tuxedo cat, Hannah, climbed the tree, which was very comical; Watson, our Scottish terrier, loved ripping open packages that were given to him. The boys laughed and laughed!

This year, our granddaughter, Chloe, was the center of attention. She danced for us to "Jingle Bells" and kissed her toys as they were brought out of their wrappings. The blessings of children at Christmastime truly is the best gift of all."

Stitch count: 59H x 59W
Design size: 4" x 4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of petite braid.

Photo is on page 55.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim was made by making loops around edge of ornament using twelve Mill Hill #22011 gold seed beads for each loop. (Model uses three packages.) Hanger was made by alternately threading one #22011 seed bead and one Mill Hill #82011 bugle bead onto a length of beading cord.

The Sunflower Seed, 4004 South West Huntoon
Topeka, KS 66604; *thesunflowerseed3@juno.com;*
www. thesunflowerseed.com

Celtic Wreath

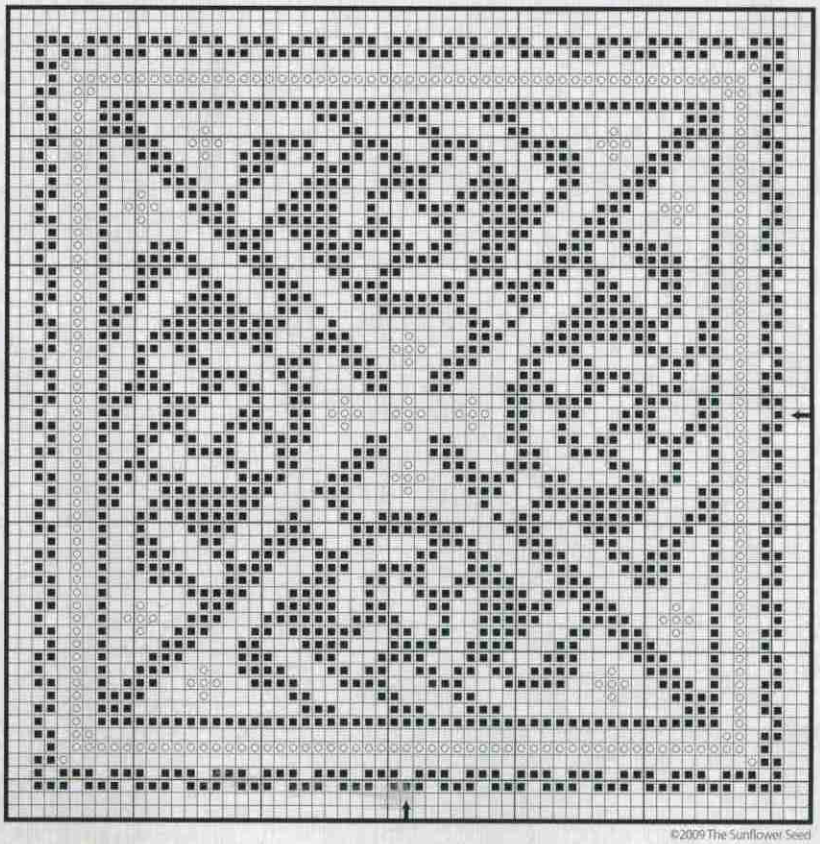
Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss
DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■ bandana (815)

Rainbow Gallery Treasure Petite Braid™

○ PB26 Aztec gold

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 30-count antique cotton linen from R & R Reproductions



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1
2
3
Ruh,ruh
Rudolph
4
FOR THE HOLIDAYS, SPEND TIME WITH THOSE YOU LOVE
5
true love
7
8

Christmas Confetti

1. **Prairie Moon**
   Christmas With a Twist
2. **Charlette's Collectibles**
   Candy Cane Horse
3. **Raise the Roof Designs**
   Run, Run Rudolph
4. **Dragon Dreams, Inc.**
   Spending Time Together
5. **Brooke's Books**
   Stitchy Claus
6. **Jemini Designs**
   Felicia Flamingo
7. **monsterbubbles**
   Day One
8. **Ink Circles**
   Pomander
9. **Country Cottage Needleworks**
   Visions of Sugar Plums

Prairie Moon

Barbara Syburg and Suzanne Shead

"Here's an easy and tasty dish to make ahead and then stick in the oven for a great Christmas morning breakfast or brunch.

We wish you health, peace, and happiness and send our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. Happy stitching!"

Christmas With a Twist

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	1279 (895)	holly
•	1109 (ecru)	angel hair*
@	2269 (321)	liberty

**Two skeins are required.*

Fabric: 7" x 8" piece 32-count vintage pear linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 40H x 59W

Design size: 2 1/2" x 3 3/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Photo is on page 64.

Finishing instructions: Measure out 1" from left edge of stitched design and remove one vertical thread. Trim fabric to 1/4" from withdrawn thread. Remove all vertical fabric threads between cut edge and withdrawn thread to create fringe. Repeat on right side of stitched design. Trim top and bottom of stitched piece to 1/2" from stitching. Bring top and bottom edges together with right sides facing. Sew together 1/8" away from edge of stitched design. Turn ornament right-side out. Tie a length of ribbon around left end of ornament, along edge of stitching. Stuff ornament firmly with polyester fiberfill. Tie a length of ribbon along right edge of ornament, taking care that no fiberfill protrudes from right end.

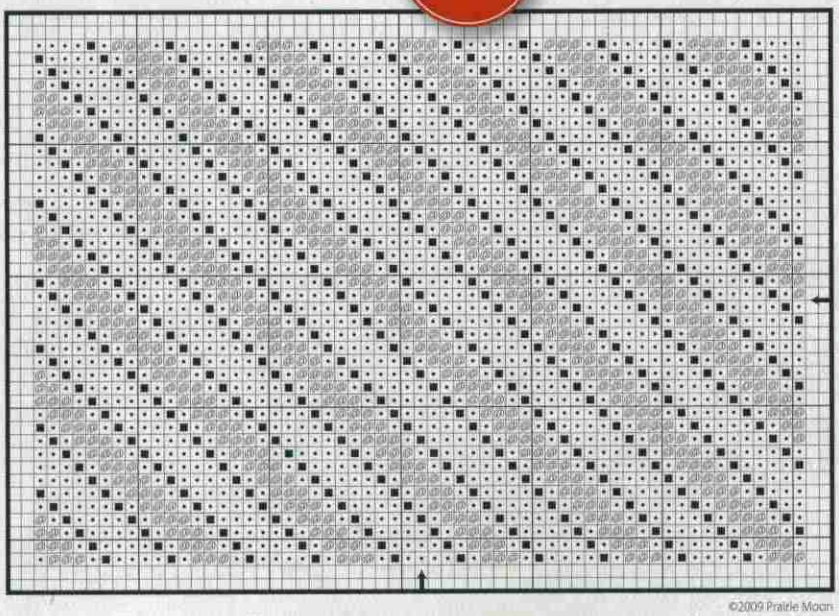
Model was finished by tying 1/8"-wide red, green, and white satin ribbons to ends. Hanger was made using coordinating metallic thread.

Finished by Debra Noë

Prairie Moon, 2540 Meadow Wood Road
Granbury, TX 76048; *prairiemoon3@aol.com*; *www.prairiemoon3.com*

See page 103 for **Egg and Sausage Soufflé** recipe.

KIT See page 106.



©2009 Prairie Moon

Charlette's Collectibles

Charlette Dockens

"My mother, Angeline Oblack (pictured here), is the spiritual leader of our family. Her faith is unshakeable and contagious. Family and friends alike have been known to ask Mom to remember them in her prayers. She is 88 years young and loves everything about life. She was raised in Hawaii on a dairy ranch and often talks about the many hours she spent riding her horses. As a special reminder of her, we designed the candy-cane horse as our ornament.

In Mom's world, children always come first. She will do whatever it takes to make the "little ones" happy, and it does not matter how young or old they are. Candy canes have been on Mom's tree since I can remember, so we made it possible to slip a candy cane on the back of the horse. Anyone with a sweet tooth can indulge! You can find the rest of our Candy Cane Horse Collection in a leaflet due to be released this fall. We do hope you add this colorful design to your tree. Merry Christmas!"

Candy Cane Horse

	DMC®	Presencia®	
○	738	8060	tan, vy. lt.
3	436	7392	tan
■	3371	8083	black brown
@[	3347	4561	yellow green, med.
	015 Kreinik BF		chartreuse
.[	blanc	1000	white
	032 Kreinik BF		pearl
▲[	321	1902	red
	003 Kreinik BF		red
☆[	725	1140	topaz, med. lt.
	002 Kreinik BF		gold

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

/	5555	oyster

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 14-count white perforated plastic from Yarn Tree

Stitch count: 48H x 54W

Design size: 3 1/2" x 3 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using three strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid. When two colors are bracketed together, use two strands of floss and one strand of blending filament.

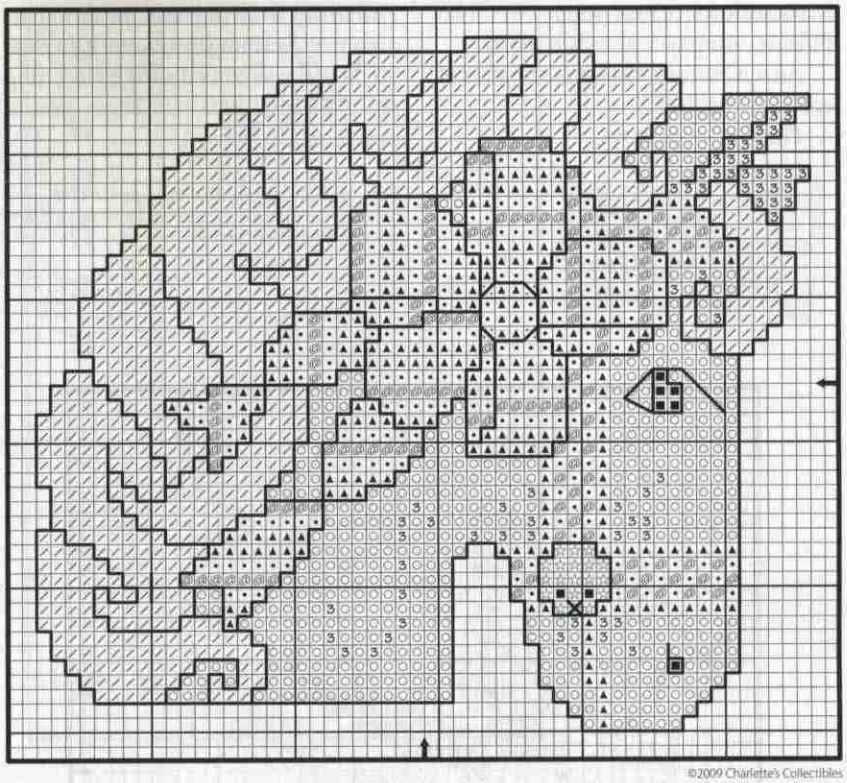
Backstitch over one square, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch instructions:

436	363	horse
738	361	mane
3371	382	remainder of backstich

Finishing instructions: Trim stitched piece to one square from stitching. Using trimmed stitched piece as a template, cut out backing from coordinating felt. Position hanger on ornament and glue felt to back of stitched piece. Cut two 1½" x ⅜" rectangles from perforated plastic. Whipstitch short ends of each piece together, forming two loops. Position loops above one another and glue to back of piece. Slip candy cane into loops.

Charlette's Collectibles, 1824 Octubre Drive, El Paso, TX 79935; *toocute@elp.rr.com*; *www.charlettescollectibles.com*



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Raise the Roof Designs

Sue Rainer and Theresa Venette

"Back before cable and satellite television brought cartoons 24 hours a day, we children of the 1970s looked forward to the holidays—not only for the Sears catalog (and its back-of-the-book toy selection) but for the holiday shows.

There were the stop-motion photography gems like *Year Without a Santa Claus* (go, Heat Miser! Go, Snow Miser!), *The Little Drummer Boy*, and *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*. When Bumble (a.k.a Snow Monster) would come up over those glowing mountains, we'd be shaking in our footed pj's.

The *Peanuts* gang was irresitible in their Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas specials, all of which came within six or seven weeks of each other. I still play the Peanuts Christmas songs on the piano during the holidays. Charlie Brown's forlorn little tree, his doomed play, and Linus's soliloquy in the spotlight are familiar and beloved.

John Denver joined the Muppets one year, and we listened to the soundtrack for weeks. I seem to remember Fat Albert and his gang celebrating Christmas, and year after year, we looked forward to the Grinch, who was cuddly as a cactus, charming as an eel, and generally a bad banana with a greasy black peel.

Thanks to DVDs, our kids have been able to watch a lot of the same Christmas shows we loved as children. And we've added a few more: *Miracle on 34th Street, The Muppet Christmas Carol*, and, most recently, the oft-played but constant tearjerker *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Take some time this year to curl up with the kids. The gift wrapping and cookie making will wait."

Run, Run Rudolph

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

~	0720 (3716)	Victorian pink
■	1040 (310)	black crow
B	0440 (3790)	maple syrup
◑	0390 (321)	buckeye scarlet
★	0260 (3842)	presidential blue
•	1140 (3865)	oatmeal

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

@	7059 (976)	pumpkin pie

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

≠	2173 (909)	envy

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

○	Tyler boy blue (519)	

Just Another Button Company™

●	4442.T	tiny snowflake (2)
◆	4455.S	small blue gift

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 32-count tumbleweed linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 52H x 47W

Design size: 3¼" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

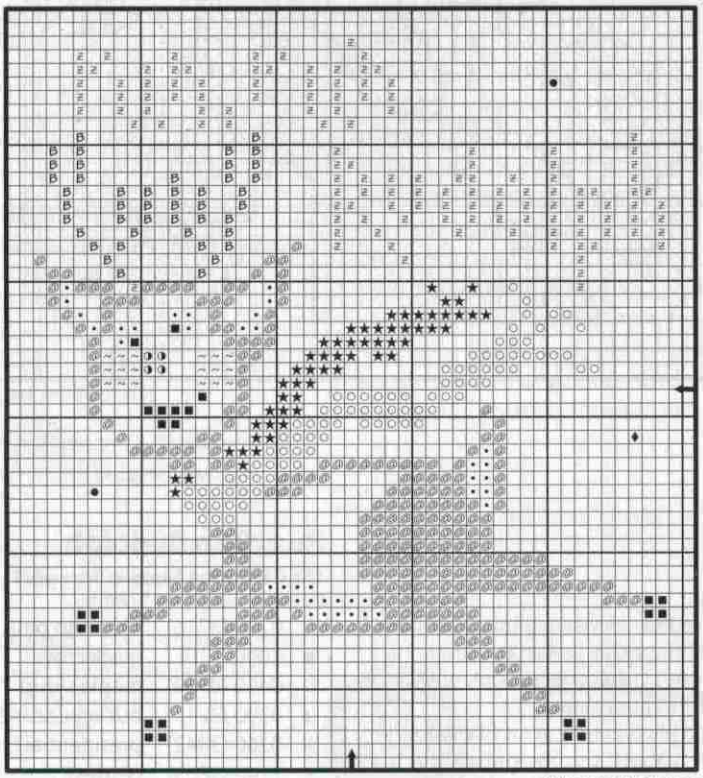
Attach buttons, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Photo is on page 64.

See page 104 for **Homemade Cranberry Sauce** recipe.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Model was embellished by inserting red glass-head pins into edges around ornament.

Raise the Roof Designs, 6102 US Highway 98 #6, Hattiesburg, MS 39402; *raisetheroofdesigns@yahoo.com*; *www.raisetheroofdesigns.com*



©2009 Raise the Roof Designs

Christmas

is doing

a little something extra

for someone.

—Charles Schulz

Dragon Dreams, Inc.

Jennifer Aikman-Smith

"This year's ornament was inspired by the fact that my family has become scattered about the globe. From Tokyo to Geneva, Seattle to Tulsa, Prince Rupert to Dawson City, Vancouver to Toronto, and Ottawa to Maine, most of our family lives far away from us now, except for our moms and stepdads.

While much of the media portrays this economic uncertainty as something to be feared, I truly believe that it is also forcing us to focus on what is really important in our lives as individuals and as a society. Time spent with those you love can be one of the most precious gifts of all. May this holiday season be not about how expensive the gift but rather about how much thought and love you put into creating it. Stitchers know that better than almost anyone out there!

May the simple things fill you with wonder this year, may you never take time spent with friends or loved ones for granted, and, above all, may you always look for the wonder and the magic of the unexpected during the holidays."

Spending Time Together

	DMC®	Presencia®	
X	368	4472	pistachio green, lt.
~	369	4586	pistachio green, vy. lt.
♥	498	1906	red, dk.
☆	744	1010	yellow, pl. (four strands)
■	890	4485	pistachio green, ul. dk.
bs	3371	8083	black brown

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

•	032	pearl
/	014	sky blue (half cross stitch)

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 14-count antique brown perforated paper from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 50H x 34W

Design size: 3 5/8" x 2 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid unless otherwise indicated.

Backstitch over one square, using one strand 3371/382.

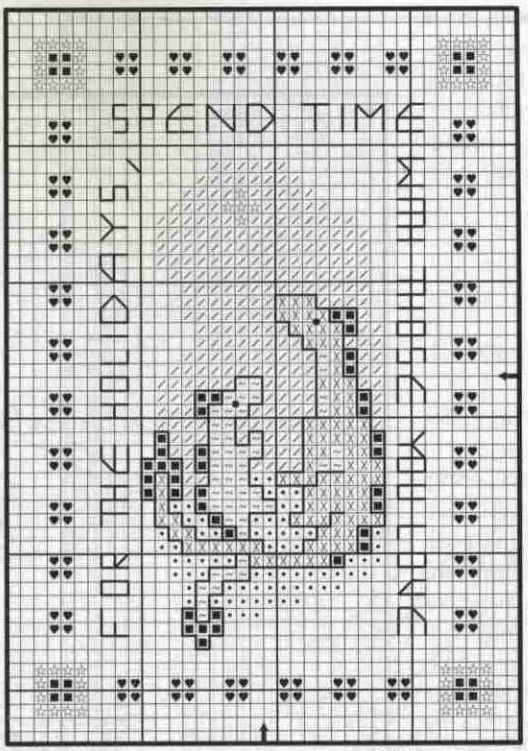
Work half cross stitch over one square, using one strand 014.

Work French knot where • appears for eyes, using one strand 3371/382.

Photo is on page 64.

Finishing instructions: Trim stitched piece to one square from stitching. Using trimmed stitched piece as a template, cut out baking from coordinating felt 1/8" larger than stitched piece on all sides. Twisted-cording hanger made using DMC® 890, 368, and Kreinik 032 very fine braid #4. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 95.

Dragon Dreams, Inc., 112 Highmeadow Drive, Moncton, NB E1G 2C3 Canada; *dragondr@nbnet.nb.ca; www.dragondreams.ca*



©2009 Dragon Dreams, Inc.

See page 101 for **Busy Stitcher's Cookie Cheat** recipe.

Brooke's Books

Brooke Nolan

"My most precious Christmas memory is of my granddad dressing up as the merry old soul himself and delighting my cousins and me with antics like stomping on the roof, crawling through windows, and, of course, showering us with gifts and stern warnings to remain "good." There was nothing more thrilling than those visits from Santa when I was a little girl.

Later, after Granddad passed away, I found that he was more like the "real" Santa than I could've imagined. He and Nana owned the Farmer's Union, a grocery and general store in Morgan Hill, California, during the 1940s and '50s, and there were many times he quietly made sure that local families had what they needed to keep going during hard times. One holiday season on Christmas Eve, he delivered, in secret, three new bicycles to the home of a family with young kids. At his funeral, we learned many more stories like this. No wonder that red suit fit him so well. I am blessed to be Lee Buchheister's granddaughter and to have known such a generous soul. My mom and I honor him every year with a growing collection of Santa ornaments on our trees, so it's particularly appropriate that I designed "Stitchy Claus" for this issue."

Stitchy Claus

	DMC®	Anchor®	
•	B5200	1	snow white
~	951	1010	tawny, lt.
ℨ	3773	1008	desert sand, med.
♡	761	1021	salmon, lt.
ℓ	352	9	coral, lt.
£	956	40	geranium
☆	666	46	red, bt.
@	321	47	red
◐	498	1005	red, dk.
/	3756	1037	baby blue, ul. vy. lt.
✳	813	161	blue, lt.
☾	772	259	yellow green, vy. lt.
$	470	266	avocado green, lt.
⸜	610	889	drab brown, dk.
■	3371	382	black brown

Kreinik Micro-ice Chenille

ls	01	opal

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

○	00479	white
◊	02010	ice
⊗	02011	Victorian gold

Fabric: 9" x 12" piece 14-count antique brown perforated paper from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count:

Santa: 79H x 49W
Stocking: 17H x 7W
Pin cushion: 7H x 11W
Scissors: 10H x 10W

Design size:

Santa: 5 5/8" x 3 1/2"
Stocking: 1 3/4" x 1/2"
Pin cushion: 1/2" x 7/8"
Scissors: 3/4" x 3/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using three strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square, using two strands of floss.

Work long stitch where gray lines appear, using one strand 01.

Work modified star stitch over six squares for pompom on hat, using one strand 01.

Using six strands B5200/1, tie a small bow and attach where ◆ appears under Santa's nose, using one strand B5200 and a tacking stitch.

Attach beads, using two strands of coordinating floss and a half cross stitch.

Photo is on page 64.

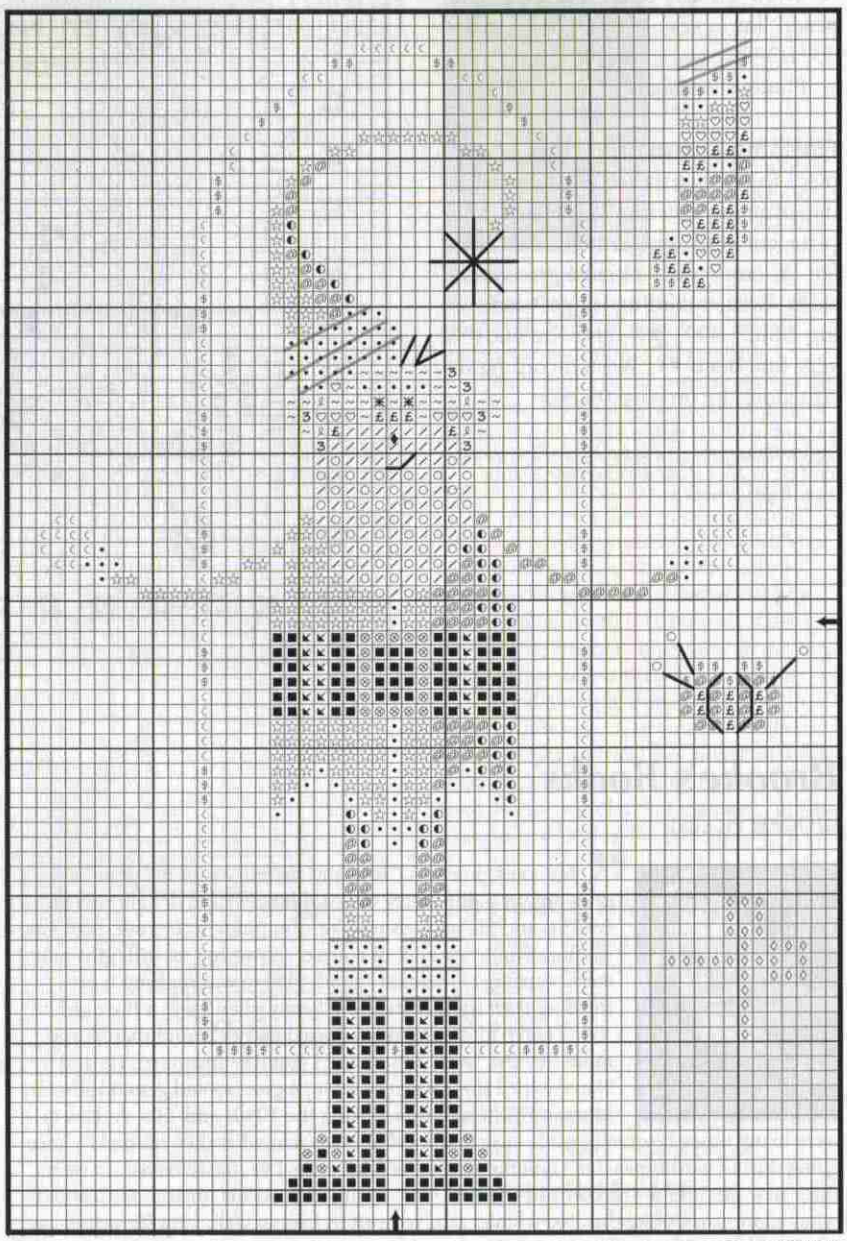
Backstitch instructions:

B5200	1	hair
3371	382	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Trim perforated paper to one square from stitching on all sides for each piece, using very sharp embroidery scissors. Using a small paint brush, lightly brush tacky glue to back side of stitched Santa and adhere to scrapbook paper or cardstock; allow to dry. Carefully trim away excess paper or cardstock, cutting as close to perforated paper edge as possible. (***Note:*** *Small pieces do not need a paper backing.)*

Cut a 6" length each of DMC® 761 and 321; twist together. Referring to photo for placement, tack garland to each wrist and to center of Santa, using six strands 761. (**Note:** *Garland hangs loosely over body.*) Cut two 6" lengths of DMC® 760; tie each length into a small bow with long tails and tack atop garland at each wrist. Using DMC® 470, make a small skein of floss for garland and secure in middle by wrapping with DMC® 3371. Using coordinating floss, tack stocking, pin cushion, and floss to Santa, referring to photo for placement.

Using one strand DMC® 3371, form a loop to create a hanger for each piece. Using tacky glue, attach scissors to top of ornament, referring to photo for placement. Hanger was made using purchased 1/8"-wide ribbon.



©2009 Brooke's Books

Brooke's Books, 336 Old Kinser Road SE, Cleveland, TN 37323; *brooke@brookesbooks.com; www.brookesbooks.com*

See page 100 for **Grandma Eddy's Pumpkin Pie** recipe.

Jemini Designs

Jeanette Rees

"Feliz Flamingo" first appeared in the 2003 issue of *Just CrossStitch Christmas Ornaments*. Since then, he has been all over the world, looking for a companion. He met Felicia and fell head over heels for her. At long last, he has found the perfect mate. He wanted her to meet everyone, so she has agreed to appear in this year's issue of *Just CrossStitch Christmas Ornaments*.

Wait until you see her! She has a lot of style and is all female. Since she's a lady, her legs will be covered—with black and white polka dot leggings."

Felicia Flamingo

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parenthese

○ 2275a (3806) bubble gum*

**Two skeins are required.*

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
ss	B5200	1	white

Madeira GlissenGloss Estaz

	35	opalescent pink

Just Another Button Company™

◆	4447.L	large holly (2)

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 25-count light rose Lugana from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 59H x 41W

Design size: 4 3/4" x 3 1/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using three strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads for beak, using one strand 310/403.

Work straight stitch for eye, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

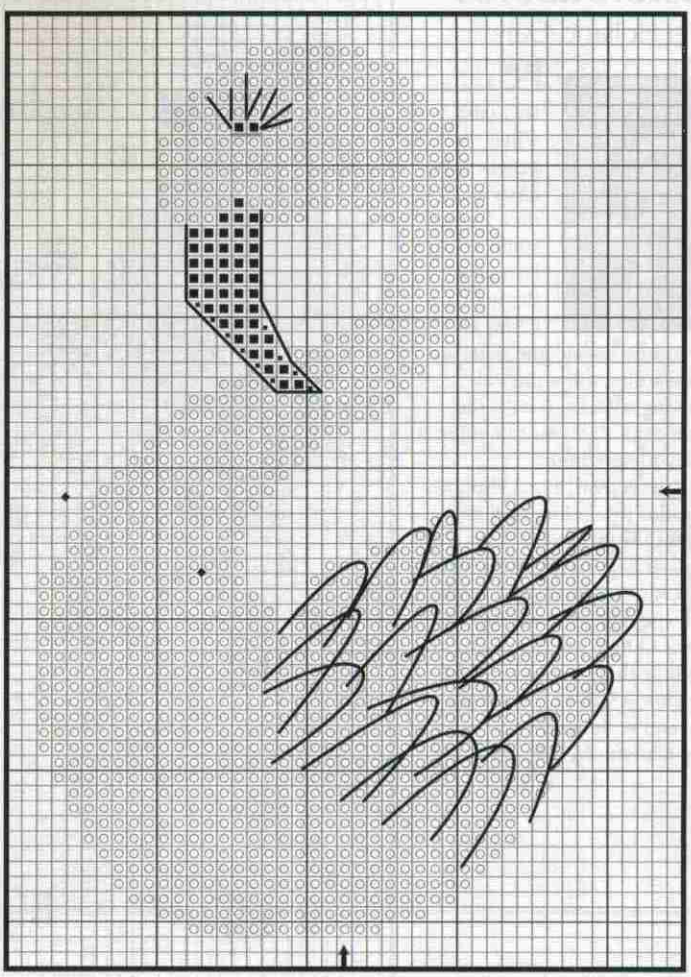
Work loose loops where curved lines appear for tail feathers, using one strand 35. Work from right to left, overlapping loops. Couch loops down, using one strand 2275a.

Attach buttons, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Photo is on page 65.

Straight-stitch (ss) instructions:

310	403	eyelashes
B5200	1	under eye (gray line; two strands)



©2009 Jemini Designs

Finishing materials and instructions:

- 1" x 9" piece black and white polka dot fabric
- 1 pipe cleaner
- 6 Mill Hill #00479 white Glass Seed Beads
- 4" x 4" piece black ultrasuede
- Aleene's Designer Tacky Glue

Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95 for body of flamingo. Leave a small opening at bottom for legs.

Fold polka dot fabric in half lengthwise with right-sides facing; sew approximately 3/8" from fold. Trim very close to seam and turn right-side out; insert pipe cleaner into tube. Trim excess pipe cleaner if necessary; twist each end of the pipe cleaner into a small circle.

Bend legs in half and insert bent section into opening in ornament. Blind stitch opening closed around legs.

For boots, fold a piece of black ultrasuede in half; cut out using boot pattern on page 98. Fold boots over ends of pipe-cleaner legs, and glue in place. Cut a length of Estaz 35 (opalescent pink) to go around top of each boot; blind stitch into place. Bend legs into desired position. Model was embellished using three Mill Hill #00479 white glass seed beads glued onto each boot.

Twisted-cording trim and hanger made using Weeks Dye Works™ #2275a. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95. Bow made using a 3/8"-wide strip of black and white polka dot fabric.

Jemini Designs, 246 Serenity Pointe Drive, Murphy, NC 28906; *jeminidesigns@gmail.com*

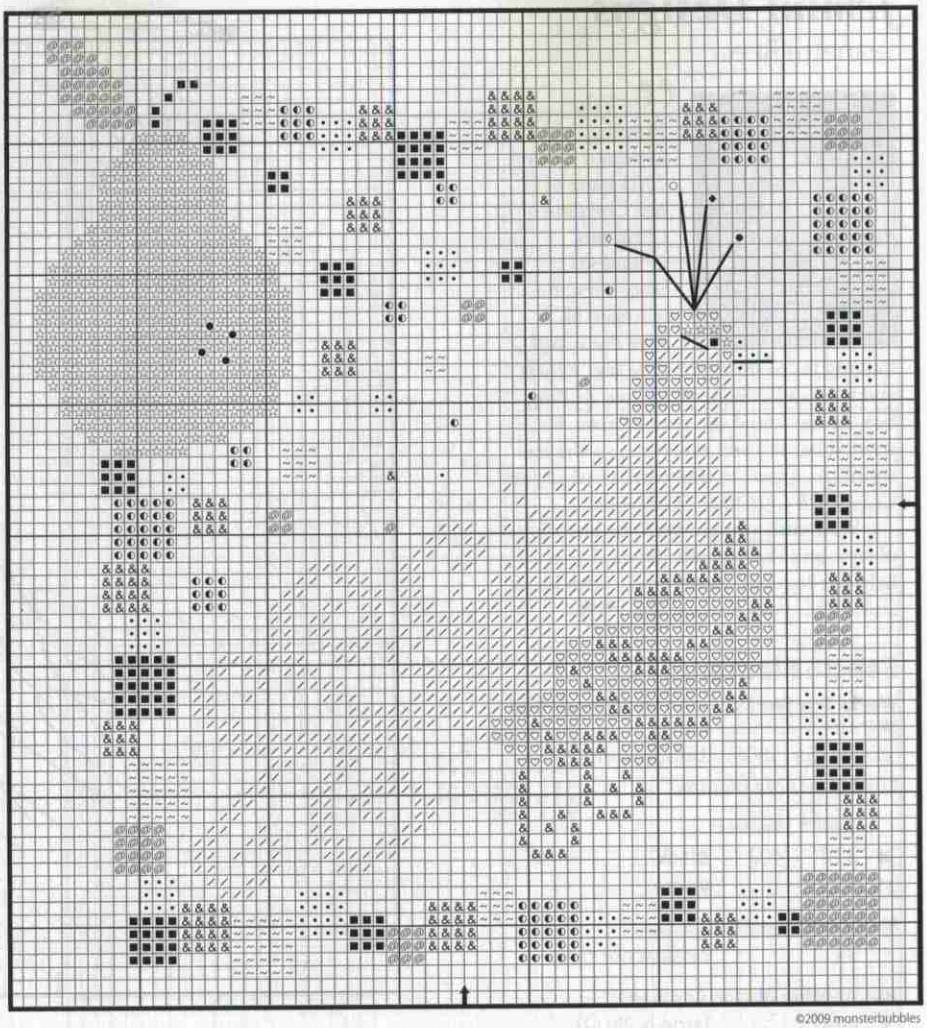
monsterbubbles

Heather Holland-Daly

"I make this salsa when the peaches are fresh and then freeze some to have over the holidays. Chips and salsa are always a welcome snack at our house after a few days of Christmasing! We eat it with the spicy blue chips, but you can enjoy this salsa with anything.

For an extra treat, add 2 chopped ripe avocados just before serving. Don't freeze the salsa with your avocados—it won't work. Also, when I add avocados to the salsa, I divide the batch and add them only to half of it unless I know we are going to eat the whole thing. Once you add the avocados, it will keep until the next day, and no longer.

Merry Christmas!"



©2009 monsterbubbles

Day One

	DMC®	Anchor®	
◐	600	59	cranberry, vy. dk.
•	745	300	pale yellow, lt.
■	3031	905	mocha brown, vy. dk.
@	469	267	avocado green
~	761	1021	salmon, lt.
♡	761	1021	salmon, lt.
	0620	GAST	apricot blush

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

☆	0180 (471)	spring grass
&	0440 (3790)	maple syrup
/	1160 (n/a)	adobe
	0620 (951)	apricot blush

Kreinik Cord

ls	201C	chocolate cord

Swarovski 4mm Bicone Crystals

- ● lime (5)
- ○ rose
- ◆ light topaz
- ◊ jonquil

monsterbubbles Charms

true love

Fabric: 7" x 8" piece 36-count #019 water-garden Edinburgh® linen from Stitches & Spice

Stitch count: 72H x 66W

Design size: 4" x 3²/₃"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands 1160.

Work long stitch for plume, using one strand 201C.

Attach crystals, using one strand of coordinating floss.

Attach charm, using one strand of coordinating floss and referring to photo for placement.

Photo is on page 64.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Hanger was made using multiple strands of 26-guage copper wire. Model was embellished using an assortment of coordinating 3mm–18mm cube gemstones and glass beads threaded onto straight pins and inserted into edge of ornament.

monsterbubbles, 22 Kenn Drive, Belleville, IL 62226-4902; *heather@monsterbubbles.com; www.monsterbubbles.com*

See page 103 for **Christmas in July Salsa** recipe.

Ink Circles

Tracy Horner

"I hope you enjoy this delicious pumpkin bread recipe. Happy holidays!"

Pomander

Valdani Hand Overdyed Cotton

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

X	P6 (921)	rusted orange
■	P12 (838)	brown
○	P12 (838)	brown (colonial knot)

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 36-count vintage sugared ginger linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 61H x 61W

Design size: 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

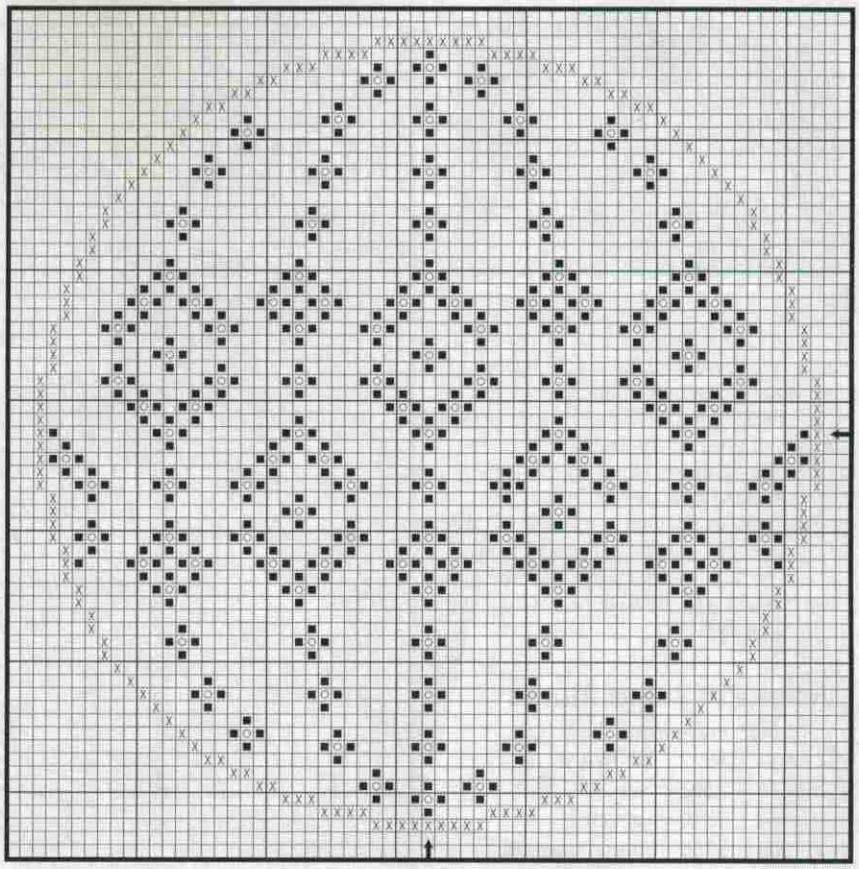
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work colonial knot where ○ appears, using two strands PB12.

Photo is on page 64.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger made using Valdani #PB6 and #PB12 hand overdyed cotton. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Ink Circles, 4436 Melinda Drive, West Richland, WA 99353; *tracy@inkcircles.com; www.inkcircles.com*



©2009 Ink Circles

See page 102 for **Pumpkin Bread** recipe.

From home to home, and heart to heart,
from one place to another.
The warmth and joy of Christmas,
brings us closer to each other.

—Emily Matthews

Country Cottage Needleworks

Nikki Leeman

"I have two very favorite things about the holidays, and they are my two little sweeties, Juliet and Sean. I love how excited they are at this time of year. Everything from decorating the tree, to wrapping presents, to baking cookies is a treat for them. So, when I get to feeling overwhelmed and stressed with all the holiday to-dos, I try to stop and look at them to remember what the work is all about. That, for me, is family and togetherness and their happy, smiling little faces."

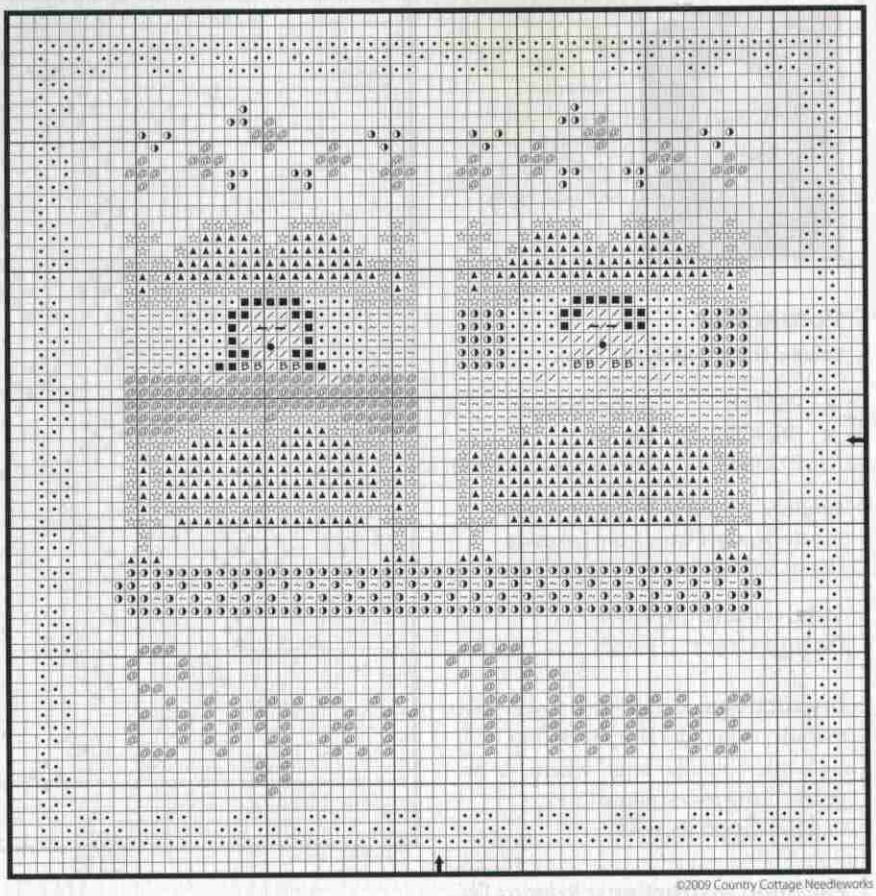
Visions of Sugar Plums

	DMC®	Presencia®	
▲	434	8072	brown, lt.
☆	436	7392	tan
/	754	7810	peach, lt.
◑	3051	5156	green gray, dk.
~	3053	5151	green gray
B	3325	3305	baby blue, lt.
@	3687	2240	mauve
■	3781	8331	mocha brown, dk.
•	B5200	0001	snow white
Fk	3328	1402	salmon, dk.

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count light examplar linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 63H x 63W

Design size: 4" x 4"



©2009 Country Cottage Needleworks

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one thread for eyes, using two strands 3781/1050.

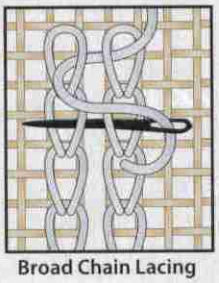
Work French knot where • appears for mouths, using one strand 3328/1024 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Photo is on page 65.

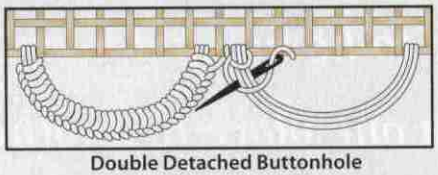
Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim was made using purchased cording. Hanger was made using coordinating cording.

Country Cottage Needleworks, 6073 N. Raspberry Court, Tucson, AZ 85741; *cottagestitching@msn.com; www.countrycottageneedleworks.com*

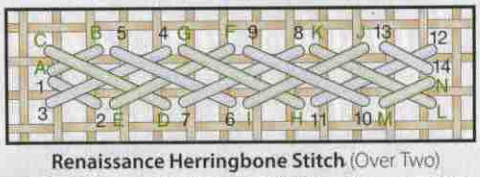
Moss Creek Designs
Stitch Illustrations
(Instructions appear on page 60.)



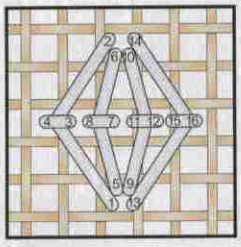
Broad Chain Lacing



Double Detached Buttonhole



Renaissance Herringbone Stitch (Over Two)
Note: *The second color is placed alternately on top then below the legs of the herringbone in the first color. The result is a stitch that looks like diagonal spiraling.*



Queen Stitch (Over Four)
Note: *Vertical stitches are couched from the inside to the outside.*

1
2
4
5
6
7
8

Deck the Halls

1. **Patricia Ann Designs**
   Christmas Welcome
2. **Full Circle Designs**
   Moonstruck
3. **The Stitchworks**
   Gingerbread Girl
4. **Miss Crescent's Crowne**
   Caroline
5. **The Victoria Sampler**
   Gingerbread Scissors Keep
6. **The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio**
   We Three Kings
7. **Shepherd's Bush Printworks**
   Santa's Flight
8. **Knotted Tree NeedleArt**
   Off to Work
9. **Imaginating, Inc.**
   Hope

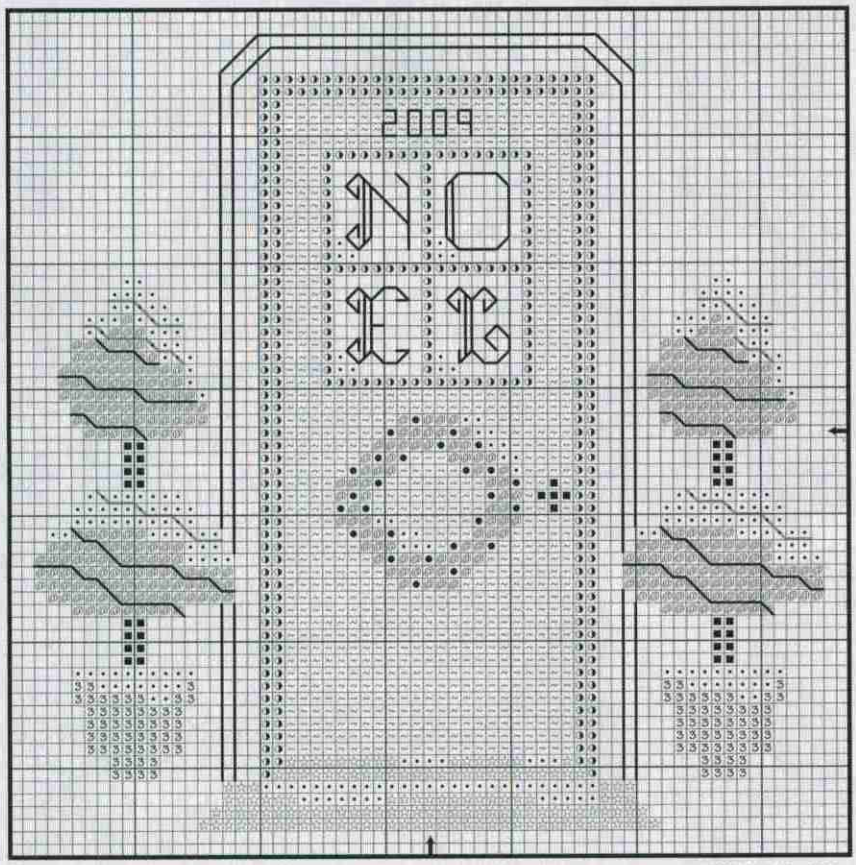
Patricia Ann Designs

Patricia Bage

"Christmas day is so hectic. My youngest is 12 and will want to be up early to open her presents, also making sure her two brothers are awake.

I am the one in the kitchen preparing the lunch, which will include a starter, then roast turkey and stuffing with all the trimmings, roast potatoes, carrots and parsnips, mini sausages wrapped in bacon, mashed potatoes with brussels sprouts, and peas. Dinner is then followed by a dessert.

In the afternoon, it is time to relax; after all the rich food at lunch, it is nice to enjoy a cup of tea with a slice of cake. This lemon cake is light and the perfect accompaniment for afternoon tea."



©2009 Patricia Ann Designs

Christmas Welcome

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

☆	1302 (645)	pelican gray
■	1268 (3031)	molasses
3	2239 (920)	terra cotta
•	4125 (blanc)	snowflake
@	1276 (520)	blue spruce
~	1109 (739)	angel hair
◑	2266 (321)	Turkish red

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

●	00968	red

Fabric: 11" x 11" piece 28-count summer khaki Cashel® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 63H x 63W

Design size: 4 1/2" x 4 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Attach beads, using one strand 2266 and a cross stitch.

Photo is on page 76.

Backstitch instructions:

1268	2009
2266	NOEL
1302	door facing
1276	trees (black lines)
4125	trees (gray lines)

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording hanger was made using DMC® 642. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Patricia Ann Designs, 9 Poachers Close, Chatham, Kent ME5 8JF, England
patricia.bage@btinternet.com
www.patricia-ann-designs.com

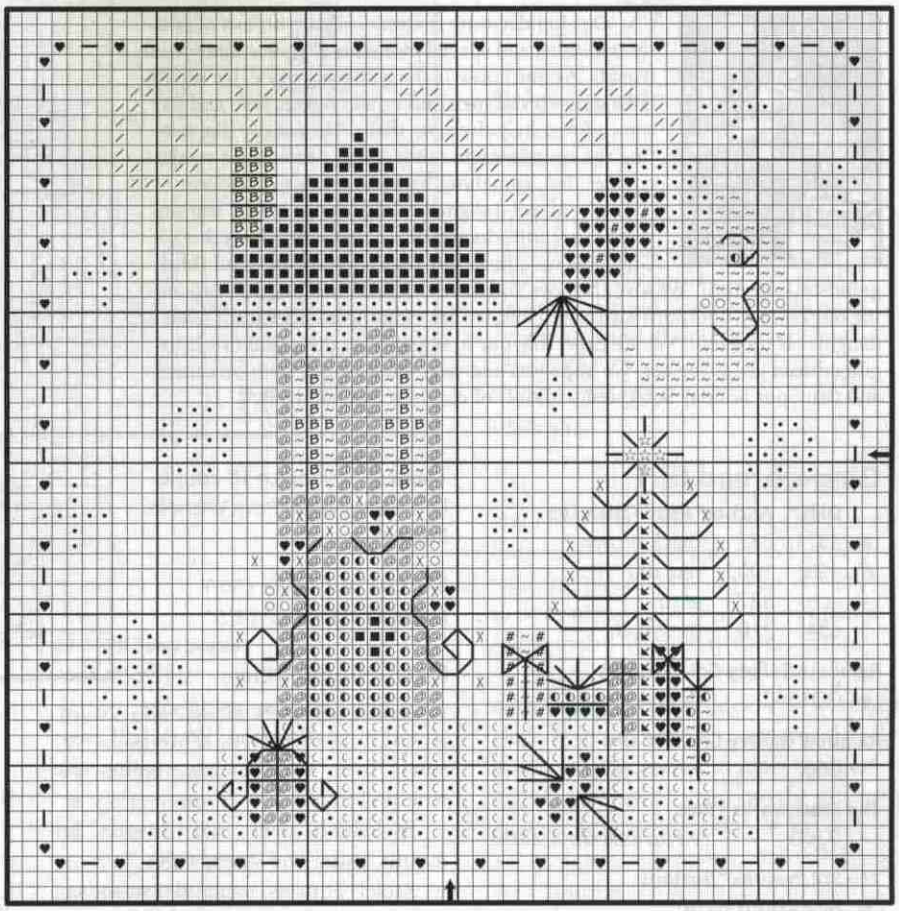
See page 103 for **Lemon Cake** recipe.

Full Circle Designs

Lynda Watkins

"For Christmas last year, I received several homemade tasty treats from my niece, Ambra. They were all packaged in a gorgeous, glittery Santa box, and I just loved it all. It was especially sweet of her to take the time to give such a gift because she is very busy these days taking care of Ella Grace, her beautiful baby girl. I love being a great aunt! Among all the different goodies we indulged in, my "stitch sisters" and I agreed that the crispy peanut butter candy was dangerously addictive. I plan on taking a batch to my annual cookie exchange this year. I'm sure they will be a big hit.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas!"



©2009 Full Circle Designs

Moonstruck

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

#	0110 (319)	dried thyme
•	1140 (3865)	oatmeal

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

X	7003 (320)	shutter green
B	7007 (3828)	cidermill brown
C	7013 (368)	green apple
@	7020 (3822)	butternut squash

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

♥	2264 (815)	garnet
■	3900 (310)	kohl
◐	2104 (930)	deep sea
◣	1269 (898)	chestnut

	DMC®	Anchor®	
/	3024	388	brown gray, vy. lt.
~	3823	386	yellow, ul. pl.
○	225	1026	shell pink, ul. vy. lt.

Rainbow Gallery Tresure Petite Braid™

☆	PB03	gold

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count days gone by hand-dyed Belfast® linen from Silkweaver (Fabric courtesy of Zweigart®)

Stitch count: 55H x 55W

Design size: 3½" x 3½"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work straight stitch, using one strand of floss.

Work running stitch over two threads for border, using one strand 3900.

Photo is on page 76.

Backstitch instructions:

0110	branches, vine
3900	moon

Straight-stitch instructions:

1269	chimney
0110	holly leaves on hill
7003	pompom on moon's hat
PB03	star, gifts

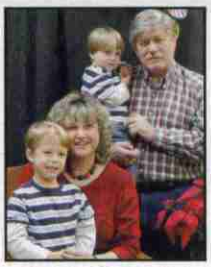
Finishing instructions: Trim linen to ½" from stitched border. Finger press ¼" seam allowance to wrong side and bast seam allownace in place. Blind stitch to pillow made from Weeks Dye Works™ #1334 merlot wool. Pillow-ornament finishing instructions are on page 95. If desired, attach one Hill Creek Designs #171 small ivory button in each corner before attaching to pillow. Bow and hanger were made using Rainbow Gallery #BG3 natural flax.

Full Circle Designs, 1313 Jamestown Drive, Tahlequah, OK 74464; *email@fullcirclestitches.com; www.fullcirclestitches.com*

See page 101 for **Ambra's Candy** recipe.

The Stitchworks™

Cindy and David Morrill



"Our holiday time is always filled with lots of family traditions and special moments with our family and friends. As our house is the gathering place, we usually bake gingerbread men and other cookies here and let the children help decorate them. They really like putting the sprinkles and other candy decorations on the cookies, but, somehow, half of it tends to disappear.

Last year, we designed "Gingerbread Man," and this year we are introducing his companion "Gingerbread Girl." We welcomed our third grandchild—and third grandson—in April. We love the boys and have enjoyed changing and expanding our holiday traditions for them. Now, we are awaiting another birth—our daughter is pregnant. We are expecting our first granddaughter, and this little gingerbread girl is for her. We hope you and your family enjoy both ornaments and that your holiday is blessed with lots of children and family."

Gingerbread Girl

	DMC®	Anchor® Pearl Cotton #5	
■	3371	382	black brown
@	498	1005	red, dk.
~	ecru	387	ecru
○	434	310	brown, lt.

Rainbow Gallery Gold Rush 18

★	GD134C	deep emerald

Rainbow Gallery Cresta d'Oro

·	C60	white

The Stitchworks™ Fizz

/	7300	white (half cross stitch)

The Stitchworks™ Buttons

- heart buttons (4)

The Stitchworks™

small gold jingle bell

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 18-count lambswool linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 49H x 30W

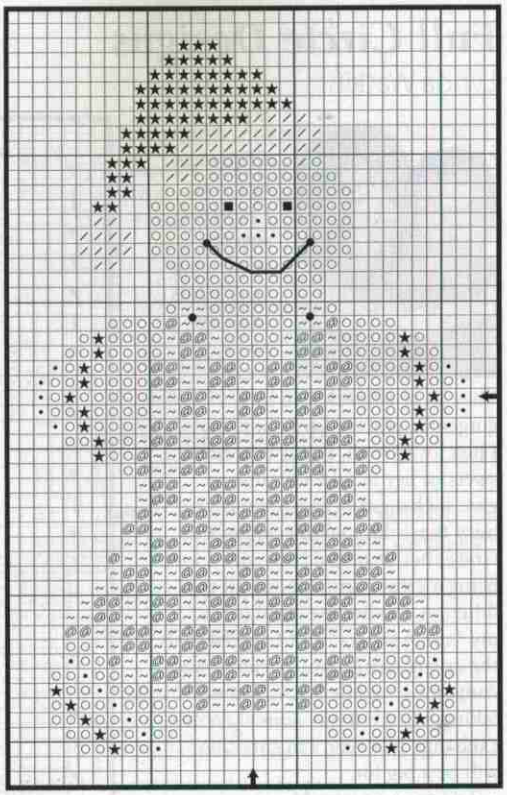
Design size: 5 1/2" x 3 1/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of pearl cotton. Work half cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of Fizz.

Backstitch over two threads for mouth, using one strand C60.

Attach buttons, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Attach jingle bell, using two strands of coordinating floss and referring to photo for placement.



©2009 The Stitchworks™

Photo is on page 77.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® blanc and 319 pearl cotton #5 and The Stitchworks™ 7300 Fizz.

The Stitchworks™, 6011 South Sheridan Road, Tulsa, OK 74145; *mail@stitchworks.com; www.stitchworks.com*

Miss Crescent's Crowne

Sharon Crescent

"This year, my daughter Meaghan will be returning from her first semester at college; she'll be ready for some time at home, and I'll be ready for time to be Mom again. My niece and nephews will be here from Texas to visit their mom (my sister), and my parents live here in Tucson, too—so everyone will be together. If all goes as planned, we will be piling into a van and going to Disneyland—two sisters, five children ages 11 to 22, and two grandparents. We are very excited.

We wish you a wonderful holiday, filled with all the blessings and goodness this season brings."

Caroline

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- ■ balsam fir (935)
- @ ruby slippers (321)
- · wild oats (3866)
- ○ ye olde gold (3045)

Fabric: 7" x 8" piece 32-count vintage examplar linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs

Stitch count: 34H x 55W

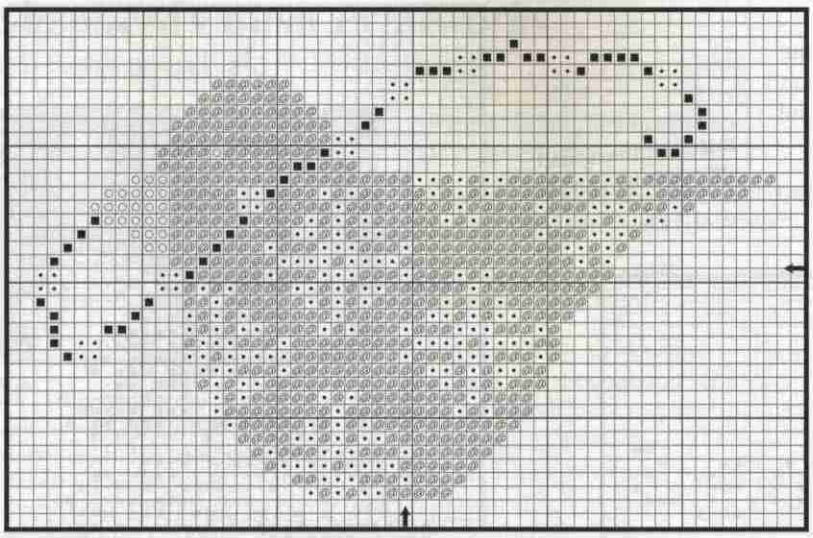
Design size: 2 1/8" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. (***Note:*** *Fabric for model was given an antique look by soaking linen in tea prior to stitching.*)

Photo is on page 76.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger were made using purchased rickrack.

Miss Crescent's Crowne, 1010 East Palmdale, Suite 103, Tucson, AZ 85714; *sales@crescentcolours.com; www.crescentcolours.com*



©2009 Miss Crescent's Crowne

The Victoria Sampler

Thea Dueck

"Merry Christmas from our house to yours!

Christmas is a wonderful time to enjoy your gingerbread, especially this little *Gingerbread Scissors Keep* ornament shaped like a Christmas tree! You can use it for your Christmas stitching and hang it on your tree when finished. What fun the buttons are! This adorable little *Gingerbread Scissors Keep* matches the delicious *Gingerbread Stitching House* design that will be released September 2009.

I hope you enjoy eating my yummy Dutch Gingerbread cookies as you stitch all the adorable gingerbread smalls!"

Gingerbread Scissors Keep

The Caron Collection Wildflowers®

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

○	067 (3817)	celedon
✳	121 (501)	evergreen

Kreinik Silk Mori

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	4216 (934)	avocado, dk.
•	8000 (blanc)	white

Au Ver a Soie Soie d'Alger

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

	2516 (780)	cinnamon

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

bs	002	gold

SJ Designs Petite Beads

☆	1813	red

Mill Hill Seed Beads

◊	00557	old gold

The Victoria Sampler Embellishments

- ◐ assorted beads, large
- red button
- green button
- blue button
- yellow button
- orange button
- purple button

Boutique Charms Colour #1

3818	star
5184	scissors (for back of ornament)

Fabric: Two 8" x 6" pieces 28-count antique almond Cashel® linen from Zweigart® linen

Stitch count: 48H x 33W

Design size: 3 1/2" x 2 3/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of silk or one strand of Wildflowers.

Attach beads and buttons, using two strands 2516. (***Note:*** *Pass needle through larger bead and buttons twice to ensure stability.)*

Lay one strand 002 very fine braid #4 where gray lines appear on chart, using one strand 4216 to couch down braid.

Attach star charm, using one strand of braid.

Personalize back of ornament as desired. Back of model was worked in cross stitch over one thread, using one strand 4216 and accompanying "Scissors" chart. Attach scissors charm to back, using one strand of braid.

Photo is on page 76.

Chart is on page 82.

Finishing material and instructions:

- Two 5" x 3" pieces two-ply mat board
- Two 5" x 3" pieces cotton batting
- Two 5" x 3" pieces fusible interfacing
- Coordinating sewing thread
- 30" length of coordinating twisted cording (Model uses DMC® 498 pearl cotton #8 and Kreinik 002 very fine braid #4.)
- White craft glue
- Silk pins

Using templates on page 98, cut out one Front and one Back piece from mat board and from interfacing. Set aside interfacing pieces. Glue a piece of batting to one side of each piece of mat board. Allow to dry. Trim away excess batting.

Center Front mat board, batting-side down, against wrong side of Front stitched piece. Fold seam allowances over edge of mat board and anchor in place by inserting silk pins horizontally into the sides of the mat board. Reposition as necessary. When design is centered to satisfaction, insert pins at 1/8" intervals around edge of ornament. Trim seam allowance to 1/2" and notch curves. Glue seam allowance in place against mat board. Repeat process for Back pieces.

Following manufacturer's instructions, fuse interfacing pieces to wrong side of lining fabric. Cut out each piece, adding a 1/2" seam allowance. Finger press seam allowances to wrong side. Place stitched Front and corresponding lining piece with wrong sides together, carefully aligning edges. Using a length of sewing thread, blind stitch pieces together. Repeat for Back pieces.

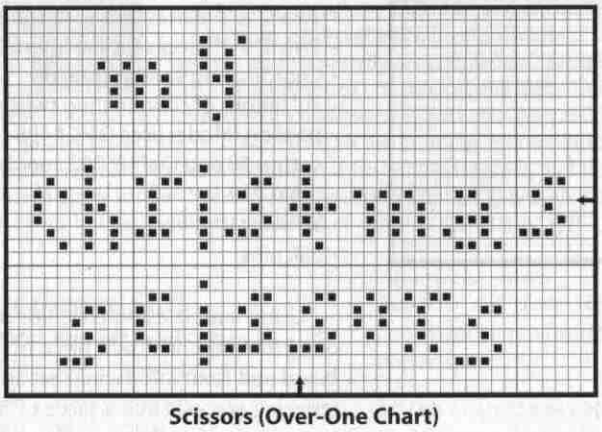
Place Front and Back pieces with lining sides together, aligning pointed edges. Using two strands of sewing thread, join front and back pieces together using an overcast stitch. (***Note:*** *Join pieces together along side edges only.*) Leave a small opening at top of ornament for hanger.

Insert one end of cording into opening at top of ornament. Using one strand coordinating thread, attach cording to the outer edge of ornament. When beginning point is reached, make a small loop for hanger before inserting

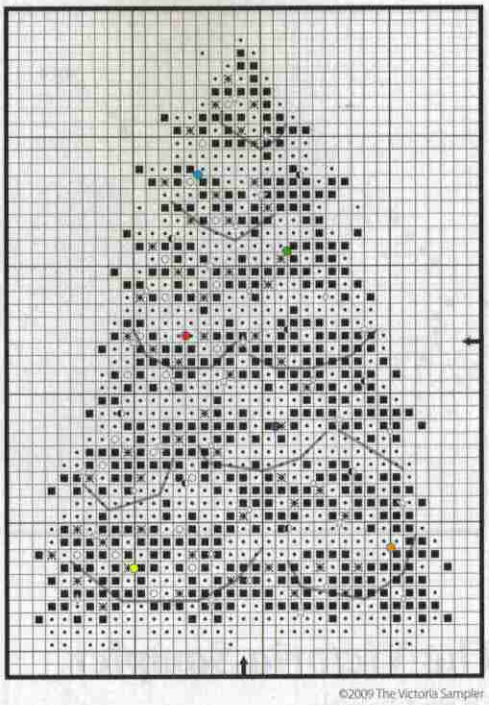
remaining end of cording into opening. Blind stitch opening closed. Wrap a length of coordinating floss around base of hanging loop and end thread inside ornament.

The Victoria Sampler, 8700 Aldous Terrace, Sidney, BC V8L 1L2, Canada; *thea@victoriasampler.com*; *www.victoriasampler.com*

See page 106 for **Dutch Ginberbread Speculaas** recipe.



Scissors (Over-One Chart)



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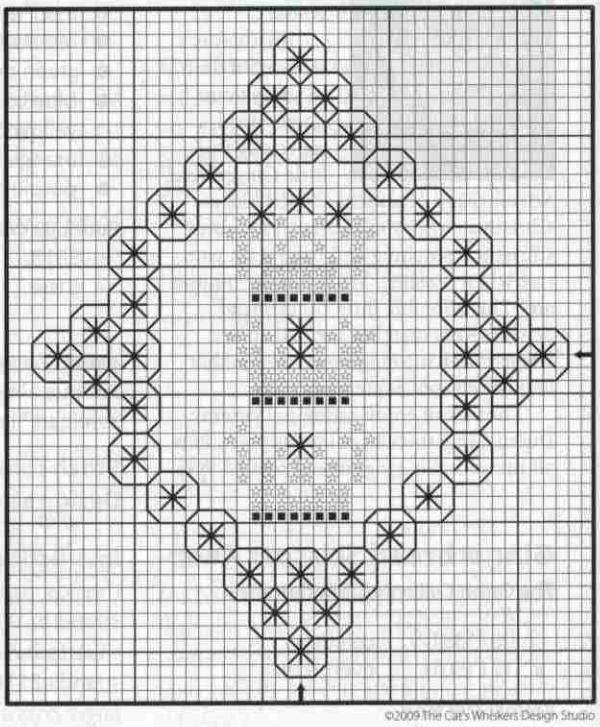
The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio

Janie Hubble

"Traditionally, Christmas dinner at our house is eaten in the middle of the day. Regardless of the weather, it is always a delicious hot roast with all the trimmings, including Mum's wonderful hot Christmas pudding for dessert. And, as it's summer here at Christmastime, during many Christmases we've had to crank up the air-conditioning so that we can enjoy our meal in relative comfort.

Ever since I can remember, the making of the Christmas pudding has been a special event. As children, my two brothers and I would be involved in helping stir the pudding mixture on Pudding Day (about two months before Christmas), which would, of course, make it a much better tasting pudding come Christmas Day! Even after we all grew up and moved away, the job of pudding-making remains with my Mum—and she has never let us down.

This year, however, the "Pudding Queen" mantle is being passed to me. As you can imagine, I approach this task with a certain amount of anxiety, as I wonder if I am worthy of this honor. I have been informed that I won't be expected to "go it alone" this first time. Mum will be there, sharing her hints and tips and coaching from the sidelines. I've bought a new apron, and I've got the pudding bowl ready. I just wonder how much brandy will end up in the pudding mixture and how much will end up in me as I steady my nerves on Pudding Day!"



©2009 The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio

We Three Kings

The Gentle Arts Simply Wool™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

■	0360W (816)	cranberry
☆	0420W (3852)	gold leaf
bs	0140W (500)	blue sprcue

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count raw Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 50H x 42W

Design size: 3 1/8" x 2 5/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of wool.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of wool.

Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads, using one strand 0360W.

Photo is on page 76.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Hanger were made using coordinating 3/8"-wide satin ribbon.

The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio, 35 Bailey Road, Lesmurdie, Western Australia 6076, Australia
janie@thecatswhiskers.net.au; *www.thecatswhiskers.net.au*

Shepherd's Bush Printworks

Teri Richards and Tina Richards Herman

"We would love to be great candy makers, but the truth of the matter is that we are not. However, this recipe, which belonged to a dear friend of our mom, has never failed us. We always make it at least once during the Christmas season—more if Tina's boys beg."

Santa's Flight

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

▲	1233 (610)	cocoa
£	1296 (926)	dolphin
◊	1153 (318)	galvanized
X	1193 (3013)	guacamole

	DMC®	Anchor®	
~	950	4146	desert sand, lt.

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

◐	muddy puddle (645)
•	antique lace (822)
$	pea pod (3011)
♡	clay pot (223)
■	blackbird (310)
@	red currant (902)
ℓ	ye olde gold (783)

Shepherd's Bush Sterling Charms

silver snowman

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 30-count hand-dyed tin roof linen from Weeks Dye Works™

Stitch count: 45H x 40W

Design size: 3" x 2 2/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Attach charm, using two strands of coordinating floss and referring to photo for placement.

Photo is on page 76.

Backstitch instructions:

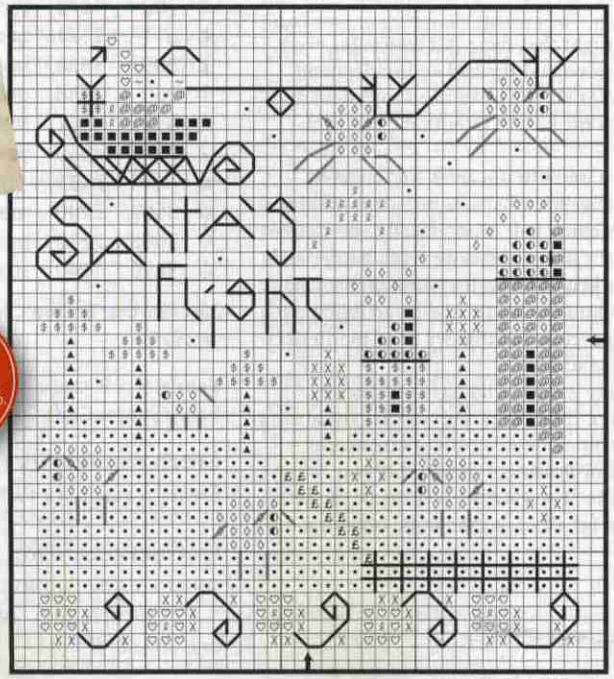
red currant	lettering
muddy puddle	sheep's legs and ears (gray lines)
pea pod	vines
cocoa	fence, antlers
blackbird	sleigh, houses
ye olde gold	gift in sleigh, sleigh reins
antique lace	Santa's hat

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Hanger was made using 7/16"-wide silk ribbon.

Shepherd's Bush Printworks, 220 24th Street, Ogden, UT 84401; *bushworks2@aol.com*; *www.shepherdsbush.net*

See page 106 for Christmas Fudge recipe.

KIT See page 106.



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Knotted Tree NeedleArt

Jamie Kile

"It's Christmastime again! Every year, the holiday descends on me with so much joy and anticipation of the coming days of Advent. Plans are made, menus designed, and presents wrapped; then suddenly and without warning, it's Christmas Eve!

There is nothing better than staying up late with your family on December 24—nephews are on the prowl looking for signs of reindeer, a new niece holds her first homemade stocking, plates of cookies and delicious food are everywhere you look, and I always seem to be up until 2 a.m. stitching someone a gift. It's home, family, and comfort, and I am grateful every year that I am blessed to be with the ones I love.

Many blessings on your homes this Christmas season!"

Off to Work

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

/	2219 (3820)	whiskey
•	4125 (blanc)	snowflake
@	1339 (814)	bordeaux

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

○	0730 (3713)	cameo pink
♥	0330 (326)	cherry wine
■	1040 (310)	black crow
+	0120 (319)	pine

Just Another Button Company™

●	4454.L	large green gift

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count raw linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 63H x 61W

Design size: 4" x 3 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

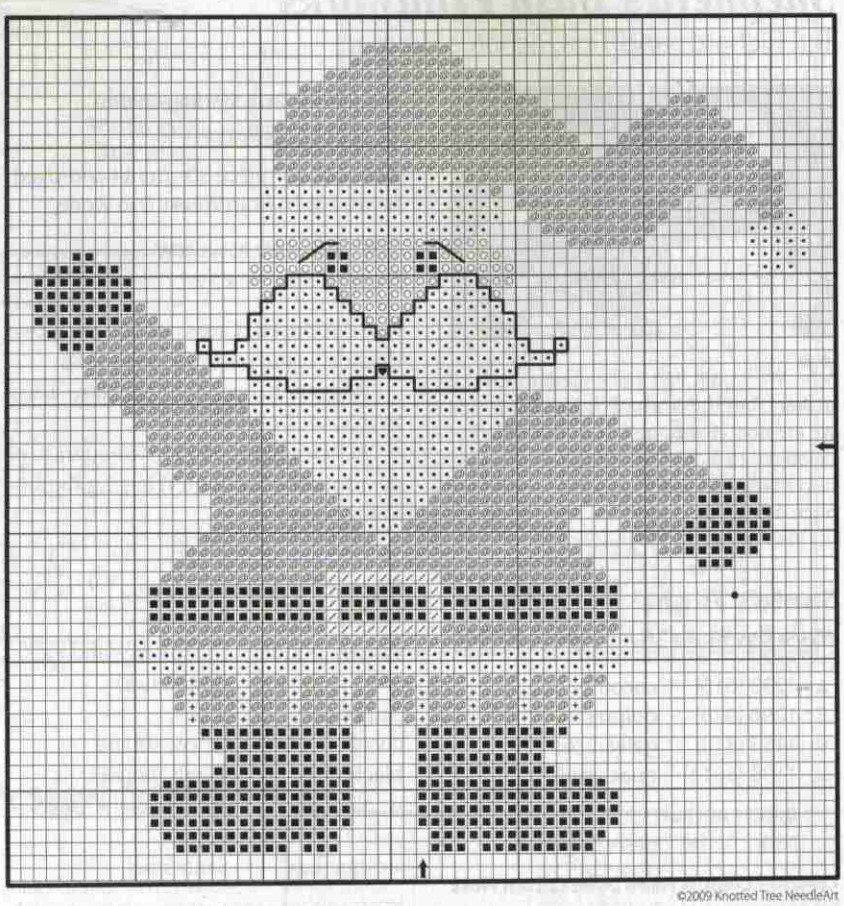
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand 1040.

Attach buttons, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Photo is on page 76.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim was made using green rickrack and coordinating seed beads. Twisted-cording hanger made using DMC® 498 and 367. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Knotted Tree NeedleArt, 52216 Fruitvale Road, Milton Freewater, OR 97862; *www.knottedtree.com*



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Imaginating, Inc.

Diane Arthurs

"The dictionary's definition of hope is: (1) to desire (something), usually with some possibility of fulfillment; (2) to trust or to believe.

If we have faith, we are taught that there is a reason for everything in life; we accept the good and the bad and understand that our Creator has a plan for all of us. We need to believe and to have hope, and even with the best of intentions, there's the hard part.

We are all tested at certain times in our lives, and I would have to say that the past twelve months have tested more than a few of us. We have seen our country come to a screeching halt economically, our retirements dissolve to half of what they were, and our jobs disappear as we work harder and for less money. Some of us have had loved ones stricken with the insurmountable news of what could be a fatal illness. We worry and fret about the future and try to figure out how things will get better for any of us; however, I'm reminded that we need to interject our thoughts with the words of our faith—and the word *hope*.

Hope is a key word for cancer patients. I have many friends who have had breast cancer, and the word is what they needed to focus on. It has been proven that visualizing and speaking words of hope can increase a positive outcome in a patient's treatment. I wanted to incorporate the breast cancer symbol in our ornament design this year for my many friends who have endured the news, the treatment, surviving, and the hope that a cure is coming. I believe that the future is unknown for all of us, and hope offers a more powerful and joyful way to live."

Hope

	DMC®	Presencia®	
•	blanc	1000	white
ℓ	648	8562	beaver gray, lt.
¶	782	1072	topaz, dk.
◐	814	2171	garnet, dk.
¥	895	4485	hunter green, vy. dk.
~	950	7936	desert sand, lt.
£	988	4561	forest green, med.
/	3348	4550	yellow green, lt.
■	3371	8083	black brown
@	3687	2240	mauve
♡	3688	2232	mauve, med.
☆	3820	1040	straw, dk.

Just Another Button Company™

◆ 3375 pink ribbon heart

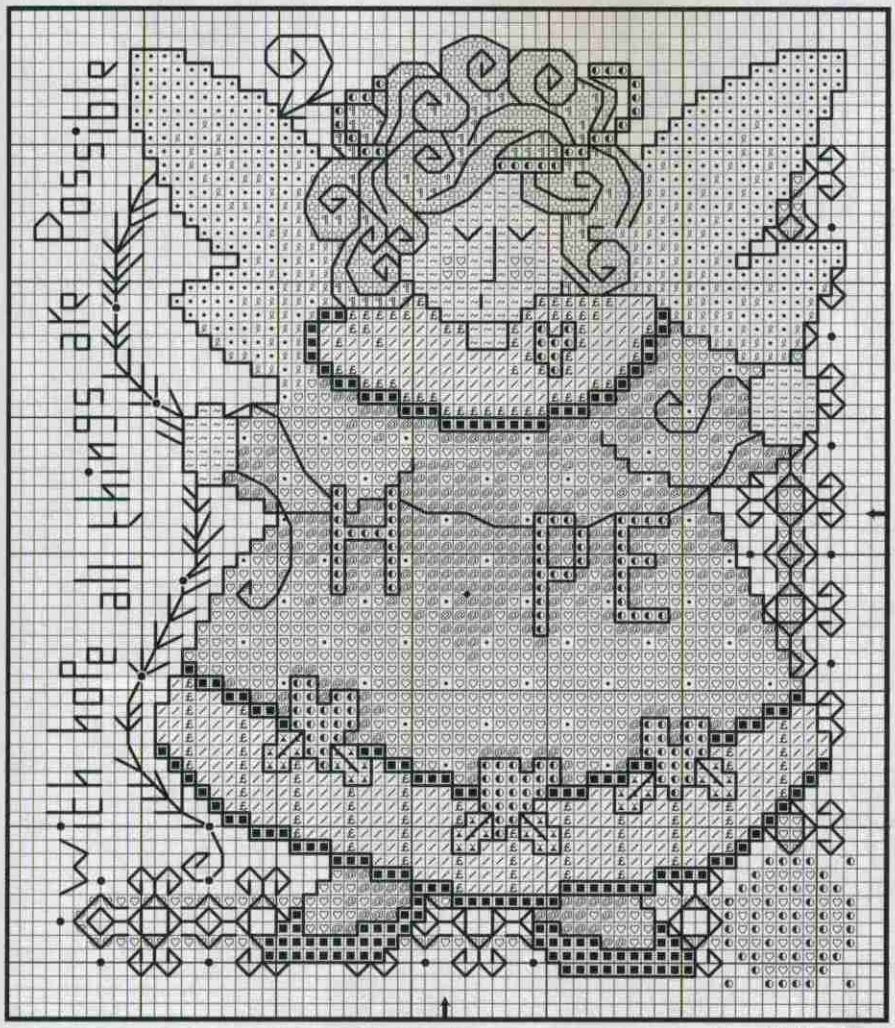
Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 14-count white Aida from Charles Craft

Stitch count: 70H x 61W

Design size: 5" x 4 3/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square, using one strand of floss.



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Work French knot where • appears, using one strand of floss and wrapping floss around needle twice.

Attach button, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Photo is on page 77.

Backstitch instructions:

648	900	wings
814	45	scroll border
895	1044	vine
3371	382	remainder of backstitch

French-knot instructions:

3371	382	lettering
814	45	remainder of French knots

Finishing instructions: Press stitched piece from back, straightening as much as possible.

Trim stitched piece to twelve squares from edge of stitched design. Using a fabric pencil, trace a line six squares from edge of design on wrong side of design. Cut four 1½" x 8" rectangles from coordinating decorator fabric. With right sides together, sew one rectangle to top of design along traced line and trim fabric so that it is flush with Aida; press. Repeat for remaining sides and rectangles. Using ornament front as template, cut a piece of decorator fabric to the same size. Place front of ornament atop decorator fabric with right sides together; place one piece of quilt batting atop layers. Pin layers together.

Sew around ornament, using a ¼" seam allowance and leaving a 3" opening for turning. Trim seam allowance to ¼". Trim corners of seam allowance to ⅛". Turn ornament right-side out. Blind stitch opening closed.

Trim and hanger were made using purchased cording.

Imaginating, Inc., Post Office Box 156, Rootstown, OH 44272; *imag8ing@aol.com; www.imaginating.com*

Good news
from HEAVEN
the angels
bring,
Glad TIDINGS
to the earth
they SING:
To us this day
a CHILD
is given,
To crown us
with the JOY
of HEAVEN.

—Martin Luther

1
Jingle all the way
2
Christmas Blessings 1814
4
5
6
A Child Is Born
7
8

Joy to the World

1. **Fancy Work**
   Jingle All the Way
2. **The Sampler Girl**
   Early American Motif Ornament
3. **Rosewood Manor**
   Festive Quaker Tree
4. **Loopylou Designs**
   Oh Christmas Tre
5. **Scandinavian Stitches**
   Swedish Hearts
6. **Wee Works**
   A Child Is Born
7. **Midsummer Night Designs**
   Joy
8. **Nordic Needle**
   Hardanger Holly Ornament
9. **DebBee's Designs**
   Christmas Bells Are Ringing

Fancy Work

Jane Timmers

"These roasted vegetables are my new favorite side dish for any time of the year. It's a yummy way to get those servings of vegetables in your diet."

See page 101 for **Roasted Vegetables and Rice** recipe.

Jingle All the Way

Gloriana Hand Dyed Silk Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

•	045 (676)	lacquered gold
○	086 (680)	antique gold, dk.
♥	062 (814)	cranberry
✳	062 (814)	cranberry (Smyrna cross stitch)
$	161 (987)	Avonlea green

Fabric: 10" x 9" piece 34-count oaten scone Legacy linen from Access Commodities

Stitch count: 74H x 61W

Design size: $4^{3}/_{8}$" x $3^{5}/_{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

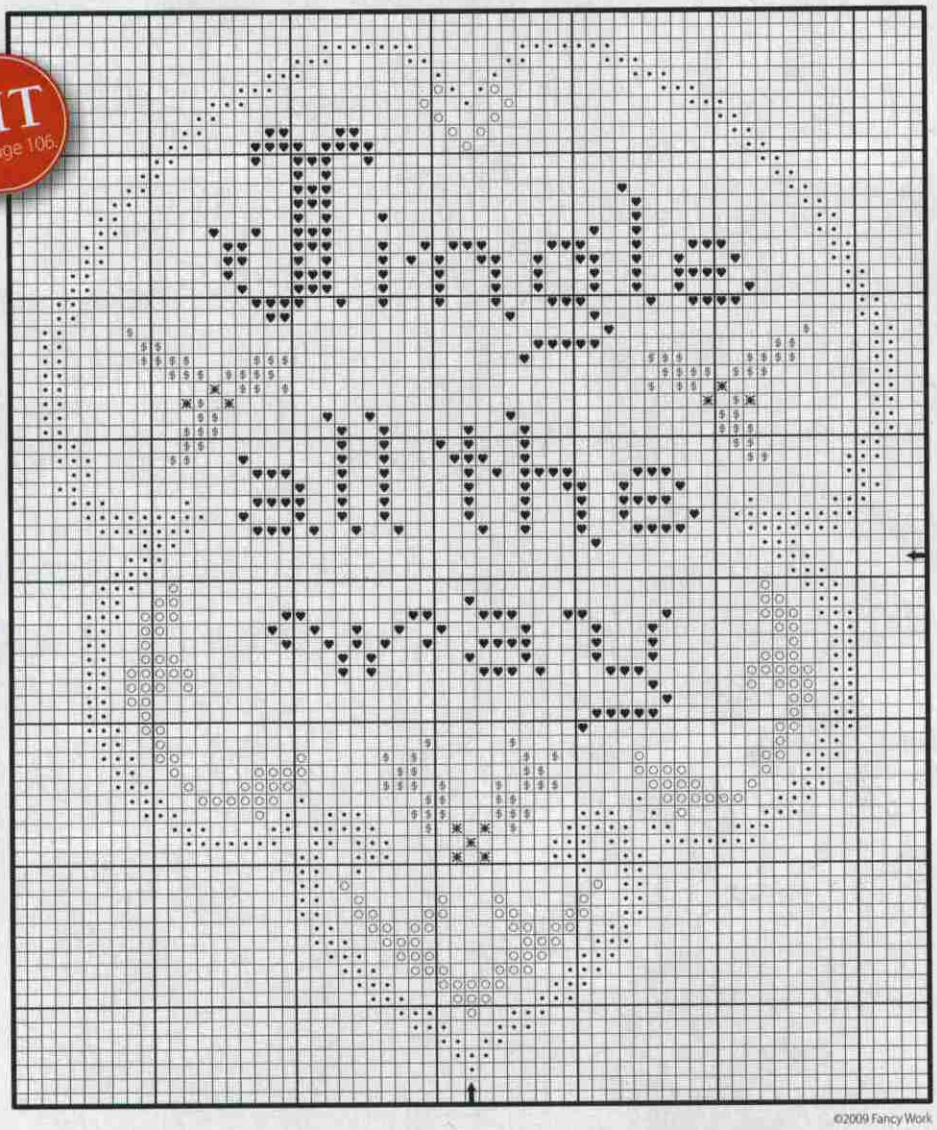
Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand 062.

Photo is on page 86.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat ornament finishing on page 95. Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC® 3345. Hanger was made using Gloriana 062 cranberry 4mm and 7mm Silk Ribbons and embellished with 5mm gold bells.

Fancy Work, 4233 Glenforest Way, Roswell, GA 30075
fancywork@bellsouth.net; www.fancywork.net

KIT
See page 106.



©2009 Fancy Work

The Sampler Girl

Tanya Marie Anderson

"My great-grandmother Mama baked these delicious muffins for me on every visit. She and Dadda lived in Fayetteville, North Carolina, a place that still holds such great memories for us. And for me, the muffins bring back the memories no matter where I am. Enjoy!"

Early American Motif Ornament

	DMC®	Presencia®	
☆	833	7057	golden olive, lt.
•	169	8773	pewter, lt.
X	167	7408	yellow beige, vy. dk.
♥	221	1996	shell pink, vy. dk.
■	3051	5156	green gray, dk.
@	3768	3739	gray green, dk.

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 28-count cream Cashel® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 60H x 59W

Design size: 4 1/3" x 4 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands 221/897.

Photo is on page 86.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Hanger made using DMC® 611. Model was embellished using four coordinating 5/8"-diameter buttons threaded onto hanger.

The Sampler Girl, Post Office Box 225, Mount Vernon, VA 22121; *samplergirl@cox.net*; *thesamplergirl.homestead.com/home.html*

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Rosewood Manor

Karen Kluba

"2008 was an exciting year for us here at Rosewood Manor. The arrival of two new grandsons meant two new birth samplers—*Watch Over Me* and *Sailing Ships*. There was also the introduction of my two new Christmas-stocking designs—*My Stars* and *Stars in My Crown* for 2009. These precious lives will no doubt inspire more creativity in the years to come.

Along with my very best wishes to everyone for the holiday season and the New Year, I would like to share this recipe. I like to make these to go along with the Christmas cookies."

Festive Quaker Tree

	DMC®	Anchor®	
ℓ	158	123	cornflower blue, med. vy. dk.
■	310	403	black
✳	550	101	violet, vy. dk.
@	782	308	topaz, dk.
◐	814	45	garnet, dk.
▲	890	218	pistachio green, ul. dk.
♡	917	89	plum, med.
☆	919	340	red copper
•	3820	306	straw, dk.

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 28-count white Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 106H x 83W

Design size: 3 7/8" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Photo is on page 87.

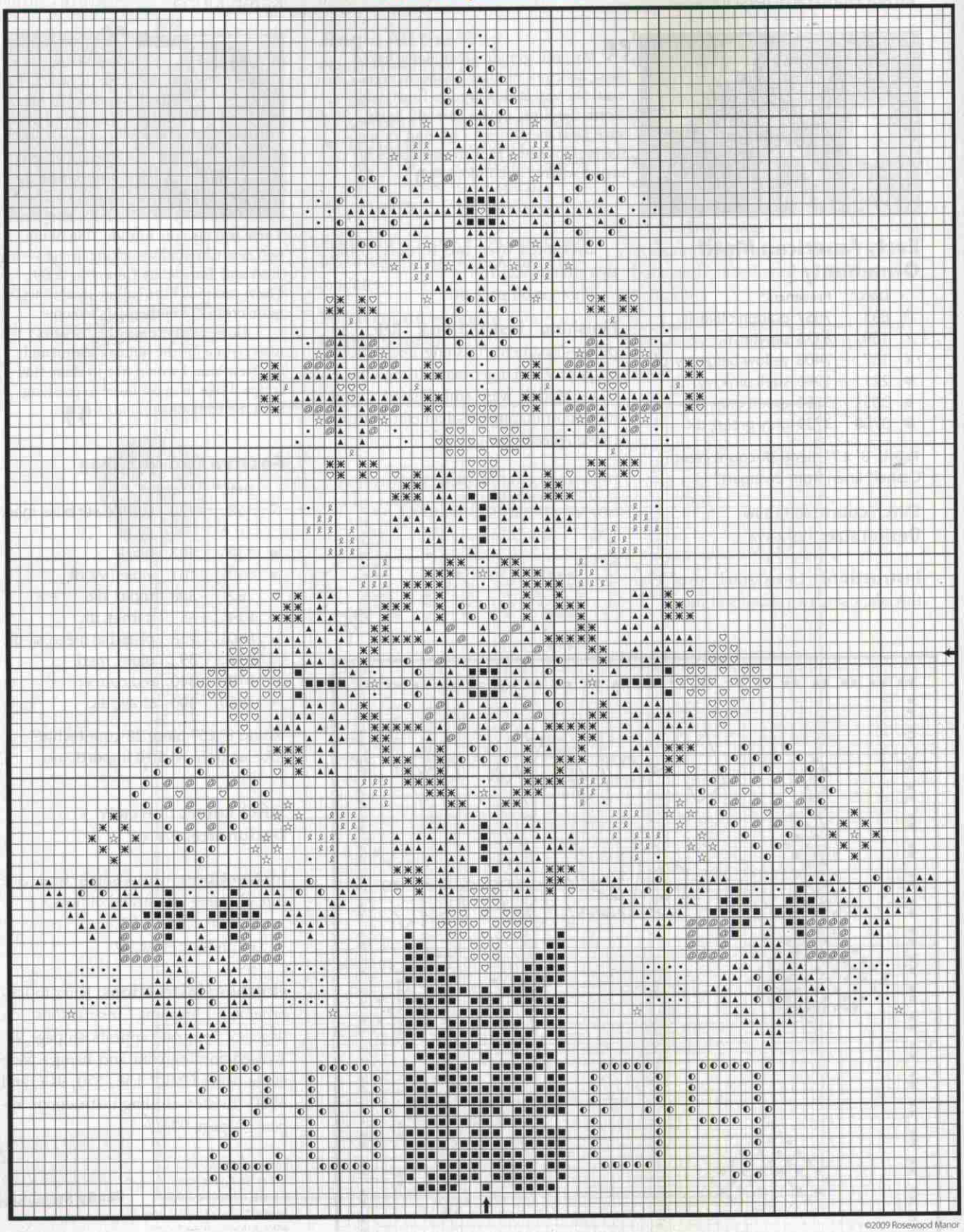
Graph is on page 90.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Template appears on page 98. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® 158, 550, 917, and 3820. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 95.

Rosewood Manor, 13531 Six Points Road, Carmel, IN 46032 *karen@rosewoodxstitch.com*; *www.rosewoodxstitch.com*

See page 104 for **Candy Strawberries** recipe.

Festive Quaker Tree



©2009 Rosewood Manor

Loopylou Designs

Lynda Bodkin

"This recipe is from a dear stitching friend. She makes this for our last stitching club before Christmas. It's not good for the figure, but it's very yummy! (You can substitute orange juice for the rum for a non-boozy log.)"

Oh Christmas Tree

Kreinik™ Silk Mori

■	1114 (666)	Christmas red, med.
@	4034 (701)	kelly green, med.
bs	4037 (3818)	kelly green, vy. dk.
bs	8050 (310)	black

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

○	40557	gold

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 25-count white Lugana® from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 40H x 36W

Design size: 3 1/4" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Work ¾ cross stitch where small symbols appear, using one strand of floss. (*Note: Thin lines indicate stitch placement and are not to be backstitched.*)

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work French knot where • appears, using one strand of 1114 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Work lazy-daisy stitch over four threads, using one strand 4034.

Work Rhodes heart over nine threads, using one strand 1114.

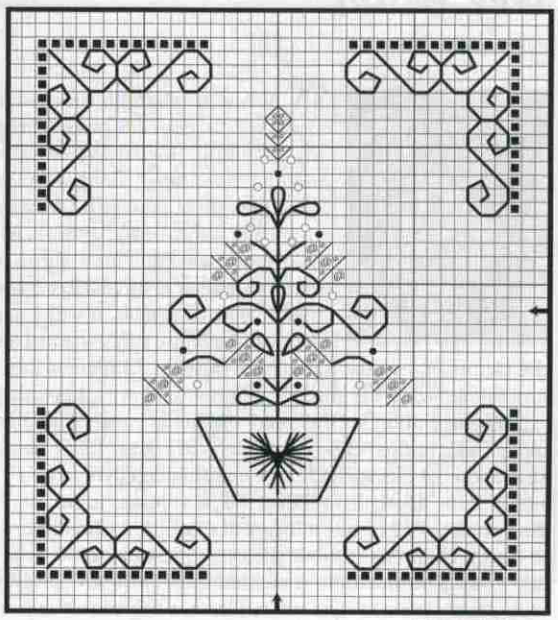
Attach beads, using one strand or coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Photo is on page 86.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

4037 tree banches

8050 remainder of backstitch



©2009 Loopy Lou Designs

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® 701.

Loopylou Designs,
49 Walcourt Road,
Kempston, Bedfordshire,
MK42 8ST, United Kingdom
info@loopyloudesigns.co.uk
www.loopyloudesigns.co.uk

See page 103 for **Boozy Log** recipe.

Scandinavian Stitches

Lynda Baldauf

"I hope you enjoy this *Rinkeli*. It's a Finnish bread filled with cinnamon and brown sugar, and it's delicious. Happy holidays!"

Swedish Hearts

Danish Flower Thread

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

♥	400 (321)	dark red

Fabric: 9" length 26-count (6cm-wide) bleached linen banding from Scandinavian Stitches

Stitch count: 45H x 29W

Design size: 3 1/2" x 2 1/4"

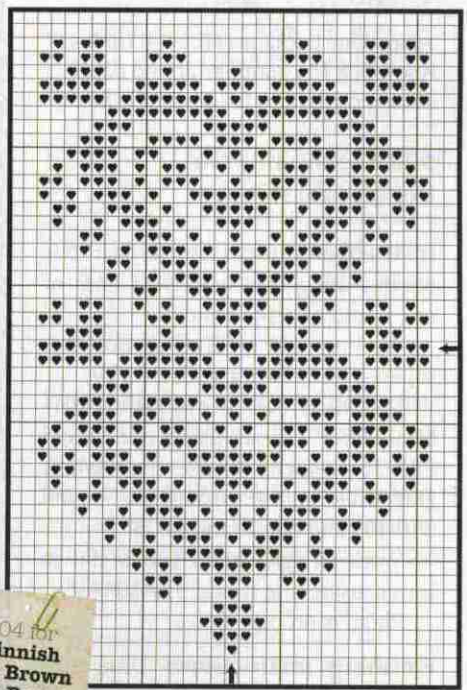
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Photo is on page 86.

Finishing instructions: Thread cut ends of linen banding through 6-cm wide bellpull hardware (available from Scandinavian Stitches). Overlap cut ends of banding by 1/4", forming a continuous loop of fabric, and secure with a ladder or slip stitch. Flatten loop, finger pressing folds once design is centered. Using matching sewing thread, sew a running stitch along each long side. Model was embellished with a 1/2" brass bell, attached using two strands 400. Hanger was made using two strands 400.

Scandinavian Stitches,
Post Office Box 501,
Riverside, CT 06878
info@scandinavianstitches.com
www.scandinavianstitches.com

See page 104 for **Rinkeli—Finnish Cinnamon & Brown Sugar-Filled Bread** recipe.



©2009 Scandinavian Stitches

Wee Works

Wendy White

"When my children were young, Thanksgiving was the signal to bring out all things Christmas and begin decorating the house. Holiday videos and music, tucked away for ten months, reappeared, along with favorite storybooks. A childhood favorite of mine is *A Christmas Story* by Mary Chalmers. Originally published in 1956, it tells the story of Elizabeth and her friends searching for a star to top their Christmas tree. One of my children's favorites was a version of the classic poem, *The Night Before Christmas*. It was a pop-up book filled with little doors and windows that opened and tabs to pull that changed the picture or sent the reindeer flying. One Christmas Eve, their grandpa read it to them just before bed in the silly, giggle-provoking way that only grandpas can!

My inspiration for this year's ornament comes from my love of books—new books, old books, children's books, all kinds of books! I love bookstores, especially used-book shops where I can spend hours and hours enjoying every creak of the floorboards, the tinkle of the doorbell, and the endless volumes to peruse. Holiday sections overflow with choice. The largest number of titles have Christmas-related themes—from customs to carols, children's to adult subjects, lore and legend—the titles most often span almost 100 years. The illustrations and bindings of these books range from simple drawings with paper covers to opulent and leather-bound volumes with luxurious gilded pages.

Among the simplest are hornbooks, the first introduction to the art of language for a child in bygone days. Paddle shaped, the earliest used a thin sheet of horn to protect the paper on which the alphabet and the Lord's Prayer were printed. Gingerbread Fairs in England even sold slabs of gingerbread with the alphabet impressed in them, a tasty way to learn!

"A Child Is Born" uses a new Tokens and Trifles™ Hornbook shape as its foundation and is embellished with touches of gold for added sparkle on your tree!"

A Child Is Born

	DMC®	Presencia®	
@	304	1906	red, med. (upright cross stitch)
■	310	0007	black
ss	319	4485	pistachio green, vy. dk.

Rainbow Gallery Petite Treasure Braid

○	PB03	gold

Fabric: One package (#T09-04) Trinkets™ Hornbook 18-count perforated paper sewing cards from Tokens and Trifles™

Stitch count: 57H x 33W
Design size: 3 1/4" x 1 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using two strands of floss or one strand of petite braid.

Work upright cross stitch over two squares, using two strands 304/19.

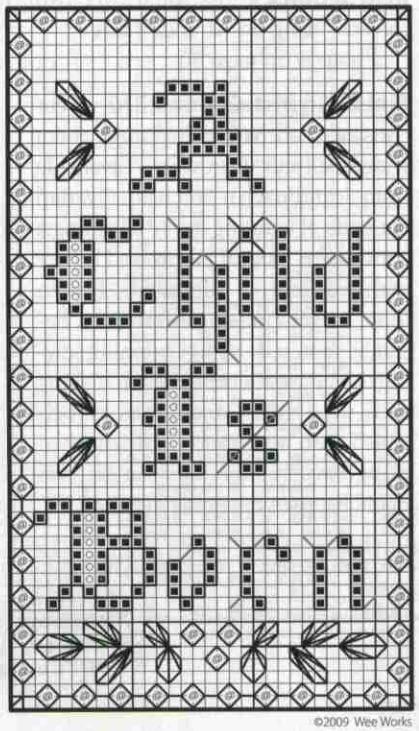
Backstitch over one square where black lines appear, using one strand PB03. Backstitch over one square where gray lines appear, using one strand 310/403 and one strand PB03.

Work straight stitch (ss) to fill in leaves, using one strand 319/1044.

Photo is on page 86.

Finishing instructions: Using the stitched card as a template, cut out a piece of cardstock or decorative scrapbook paper, adding a 1/8" margin on all sides. Lightly glue to wrong side of stitched piece. Hanger was made using Rainbow Gallery PB03. Tassel was made using PB03 and DMC® 304. Tassel-making instructions appear on page 95.

Wee Works, 1 Greenfield Drive, Sandwich, MA 02563; *weworks@mindspring.com*



©2009 Wee Works

Midsummer Night Designs

Deborah Thorpe

"One of my most remembered Christmas presents was my Barbie Dream House—the original 1960s version made from cardboard. My uncle gave it to me, but my dad had to stay up half of Christmas Eve night putting the little cardboard pieces of furniture together. My cat and I loved that house, and I still have it stored away. And despite the fact my cat loved to sleep on the "furniture" in the house and squished most of it, I keep it as it was one of my favorite toys from my childhood."

Joy

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Cotton Floss

DMC® Alternatives Listed in Parentheses

- @ apple fritter (304)
- ☆ golden star (725)
- ■ black coffee (310)
- X jolly holly (563)
- • toasted marshmallow (3865)
- ∪ lunar eclipse (648)
- ▲ whatley woodlands (3781)

KIT See page 106.

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 40-count white linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 69H x 68W
Design size: 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Photo is on page 86.

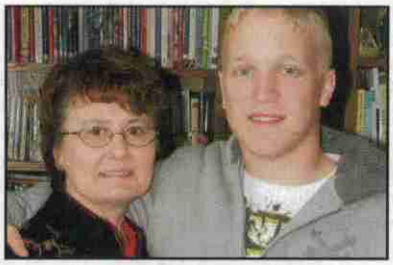
Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger were made using coordinating 4mm silk ribbon. Model was embellished by inserting green glass-head pins into edge of ornament.

Midsummer Night Designs, 9711 North Camino del Fierro, Tucson, AZ 85742; *dsthorpe@comcast.net*; *www.stitchingandscribbling.blogspot.com*

See page 103 for **Snickerdoodle Cookies** recipe.

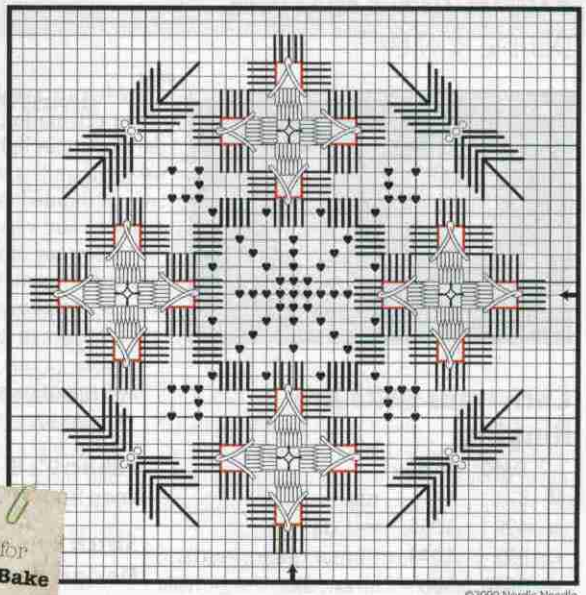
Nordic Needle

Roz Watnemo



"Christmas memories always include family gatherings, lots of laughter, games, a Christmas Eve church service, delicious food, and sharing of gifts. When a family member is not present, they are greatly missed. This year, my son will be out of the country serving in the U.S. Navy. For 21 years, he has been home for Christmas. It just won't be the same without him or my dear dad, who passed away last year. Wherever your loved ones are this year, be it home or away, Christmas is still a time to stop and be reminded of the reason we celebrate this holiday. Jesus left his heavenly home and came to us so we might one day join Him in heaven for eternity—if we only let Him into our hearts and lives. What a reason to celebrate even if all your loved ones are not with you this year!"

See page 103 for **Sausage'n Egg Bake** recipe.



©2009 Nordic Needle

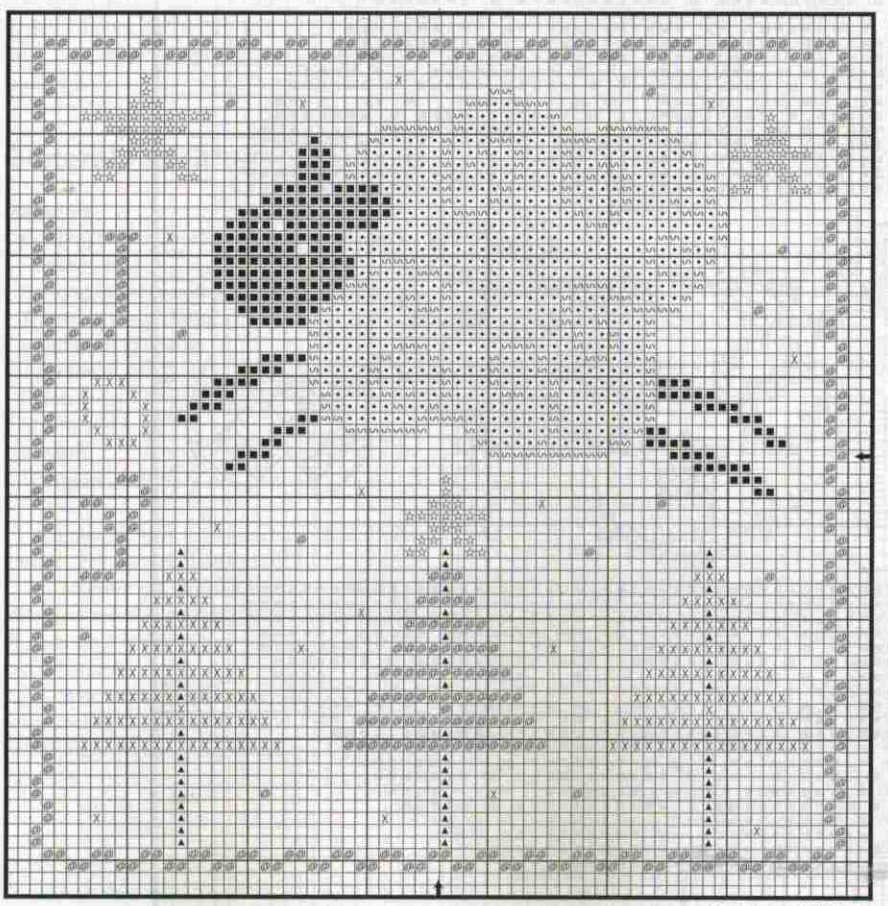
Hardanger Holly Ornament

	Anchor®	DMC®	Pearl Cotton #8
kb	217	367	juniper, med. dk.
	Anchor®	**DMC®**	**Pearl Cotton #12**
♥	047	321	carmine red

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

○	02013	red

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 24-count white Lugana® from Zweigart®



©2009 Midsummer Night Designs

Stitch count: 38H x 38W
Design size: 3¼" x 3¼"

Instructions: Work Kloster blocks (kb) over four threads, using one strand 217/367.

Work horizontal and vertical satin stitch for corner holly motifs, using one strand 217/367.

Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand 047/321.

(***Note:*** *Offset stitch by one thread where symbols appears on chart lines.*)

Using sharp embroidery scissors, cut fabric threads where red lines appear on chart. Carefully withdraw cut fabric threads.

Using one strand 047/321, work woven bars over remaining fabric threads, adding dove's eyes in center of motif.

Work outer web where indicated on chart, using one strand 047/321.

Attach beads, using one strand 047/321 and a cross stitch.

Photo is on page 86.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Model was finished using a Nordic Needle #7004 4" finishing form with silver lining. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using purchased cording.

Nordic Needle, 1314 Gateway Drive, Fargo, ND 58103
rozw@nordicneedle.com; www.nordicneedle.com

DebBee's Designs

Debbie Rowley

"After two years of battling health issues, Christmas 2008 was more normal. For part of our celebration, we went with our daughter and her family to Silver Dollar City to see the Christmas lights. It seemed like 25,000 other people had the same idea that night, so we spent quite a bit of time standing in a foot-traffic jam in freezing temperatures! But the crowds thinned out a bit, and we enjoyed the sights and sounds together, along with some delicious and very fattening hot chocolate.

Like many of you, I started dieting New Year's Day. Hopefully by Christmas, I'll have reached my goal. I spend a lot of time watching the Food Channel, and one night I saw some scrumptious pumpkin pancakes. I decided to make some that would fit my diet plan, and these are so good that we plan to serve them for Christmas breakfast."

Christmas Bells Are Ringing

	DMC®	Anchor®	
@	321	47	red
■	498	1005	red, dk.
◐	895	1044	hunter green, vy. dk.
~	3820	306	straw, dk.
ℓ	3852	306	straw, vy. dk.
bs	310	403	black

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

○	002HL	gold, hi lustre

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

•	00557	gold

Fabric: 9"x 8" piece 32-count white linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 70H x 70W

Design size: 4 3/8" x 4 3/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

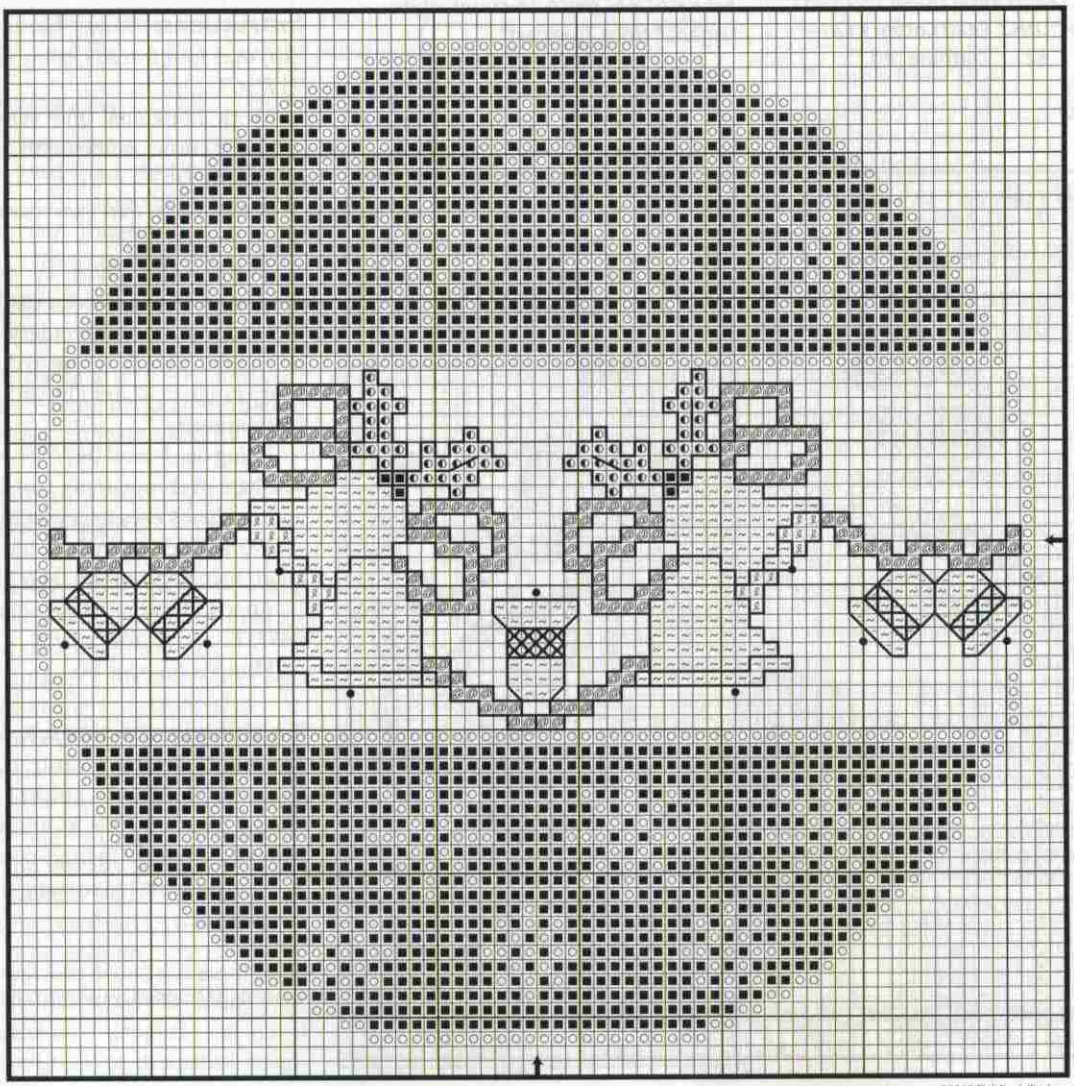
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand 310/403.

Attach beads, using two strands of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Photo is on page 87.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 95. Trim and hanger were made using purchased cording.

DebBee's Designs, 27 White Oak Drive, Conway, AR 72034; *debbie@debbeesdesigns.com*; *www.debbeesdesigns.com*



©2009 DebBee's Designs

Finishing & Trim Instructions

Twisted-Cording

Materials

- Embroidery floss, pearl cotton, or other fiber to complement stitchery *(Note: To determine amount needed, see Step 1. Refer to ornament color code for specific color and fiber used.)*
- Mini cording drill

NOTE: Cording can be made by one person; however, the procedure can be awkward at times, especially when dealing with long lengths of floss—an extra set of hands is always helpful.

1. To determine the amount of floss needed, multiply by three the desired length of the cording, making sure to include any length needed for hangers when finishing ornaments. Place all lengths of floss together and tie a knot in each end.

2. Slip one knotted end of floss onto hook of cording drill. Slip other knotted end over a small knob. Pull drill so that floss is taut. Operate drill in a forward direction. Floss will begin to twist. Continue twisting until floss is very tightly twisted and is about to twist up on itself.

3. Carefully remove knotted end from drill hook, being extremely careful not to let go of end and keeping twisted floss taut. Place hook of cording drill in center of length of twisted floss and place knotted end on knob, still keeping floss taut. Operate drill in a reverse direction until desired twist for cording is achieved. Remove drill. Remove ends from knob and secure with another knot.

General Finishing

Materials

- Cording or trim *(Note: See Step 2 to determine length.)*
- Backing fabric to complement cross stitch
- Thread to match fabrics or trim
- Hand-sewing needle
- Tape measure
- Ruler
- Steam iron
- Scissors
- Transparent fabric glue (optional)

1. Press stitched piece from back. ***Note:*** *Some threads cannot be ironed with steam.*

2. Measure circumference of finished ornament and add 8" for hanger to this measurement to determine the length of cording or trim for each ornament.

3. When attaching cording, secure cut ends with stitches or fabric glue. Blind stitch cording to ornament, using sewing thread and concealing cut ends.

Pillow-Ornament Finishing

Materials

- Polyester stuffing
- Fabric-marking pencil
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine (optional)

1. Measure desired distance (⅛"–1") from stitching on all sides and draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on grainline of fabric when possible. Do not cut fabric. Place ornament over a piece of backing fabric (right sides together) and pin layers together.

2. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving an opening at bottom for turning. Trim all layers to seam allowances of ¼". Trim corners to seam allowances of ⅛".

3. Turn ornament to right side, fill with polyester stuffing, and sew opening closed.

4. Attach trim and hanger.

Ornament Finishing

Materials

- Self-adhesive padded mounting board
- Hot-glue gun or craft glue (optional)

1. Cut two pieces of mounting board to desired ornament size (⅛"–1" larger than stitching).

2. Center stitched ornament on one piece of mounting board, following manufacturer's instructions. Repeat on other piece of mounting board for backing fabric.

3. With wrong sides together, blind stitch or glue backing to ornament.

4. Attach trim and hanger.

Flat-Ornament Finishing

Materials

- Padded mounting board
- Fabric-marking pencil
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine (optional)

1. Measure desired distance (⅛"–1") from stitching on all sides and draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on grainline of fabric when possible. Do not cut fabric. Place ornament over a piece of backing fabric (right sides together) and pin layers together along edge of stitching.

2. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving bottom of ornament open. Trim layers to seam allowances of ¼". Trim corners to seam allowances of ⅛". Turn ornament to right side.

3. Using ornament as a pattern, cut mounting board. Insert mounting board into ornament and sew opening closed.

4. Attach trim and hanger.

Tassel-Making

Materials

- One skein of floss *(Note: Refer to ornament color code for specific color and fiber used.)*
- Square piece of sturdy cardboard, approximately 1" larger than desired finished size of tassel
- Hand-sewing needle
- Scissors

1. Cut two 6" lengths of floss from full skein. Set aside for tying top of tassel.

2. Wrap remaining floss around cardboard, referring to Illustration 1 and being careful not to bend cardboard by wrapping floss too tightly.

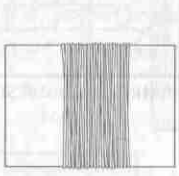
3. Slip one 6" length of floss under wrapped floss at top edge of cardboard and tie securely, referring to Illustration 2. Do not trim floss tails.

4. Carefully remove cardboard.

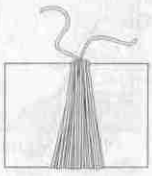
5. Referring to Illustration 3, wind second 6" length of floss around neck of tassel, ¼"–½" from top of tassel. Thread needle with floss tail and wrap around tie several times, referring to Illustration 4. Bury floss end in tassel. Repeat for remaining floss tail.

6. Cut along bottom of tassel through all fibers. Trim bottom of tassel to desired length and so that floss is even.

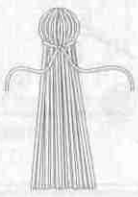
7. Attach tassel to ornament, using floss tail at top of tassel to secure.



ILL. 1

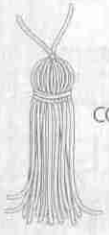


ILL. 2



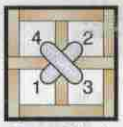
ILL. 3

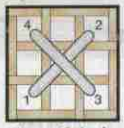
ILL. 4

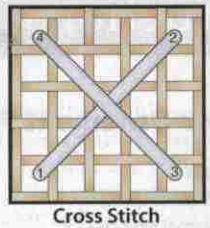


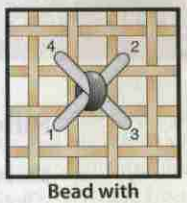
COMPLETED TASSEL

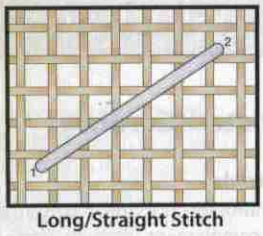
Stitch Illustrations

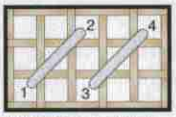

Cross Stitch (Over 1)


Cross Stitch (Over 2)

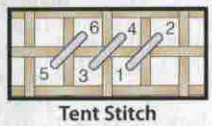

Cross Stitch (Over 4)


Bead with Cross Stitch (Over 2)


Long/Straight Stitch

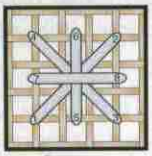

Half Cross Stitch (Over 2)

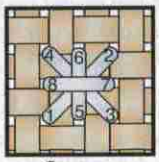
Cross Stitch (Aida)

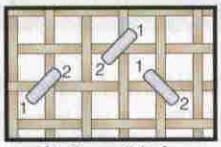

Tent Stitch (Over 1)

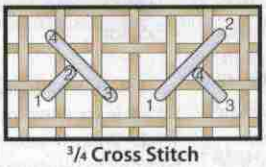
Upright Cross Stitch (Over 2)

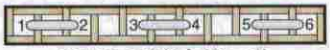
Smyrna Cross Stitch (Over 2)

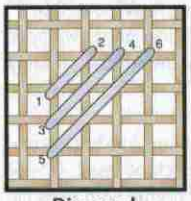

Smyrna Cross Stitch (Over 4)


Smyrna Cross Stitch (Aida Over 2)

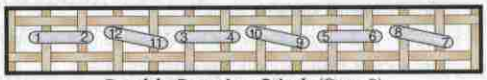

1/4 Cross Stitch


3/4 Cross Stitch

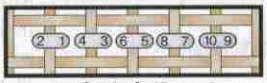

Running Stitch (Over 2)

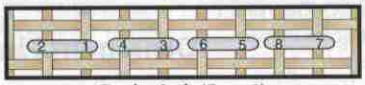

Diagonal Satin Stitch

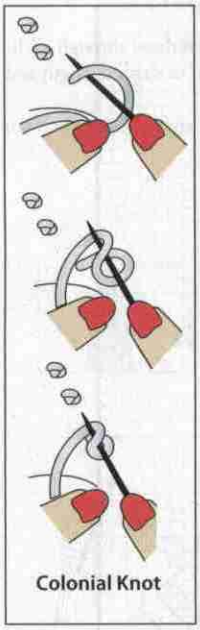
Backstitch (Aida)

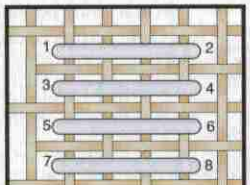

Double Running Stitch (Over 2)

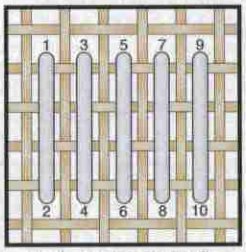
Basketweave Stitch (Over 1)


Backstitch (Over 1)


Backstitch (Over 2)


Colonial Knot


Satin Horizontal Stitch (Over 4)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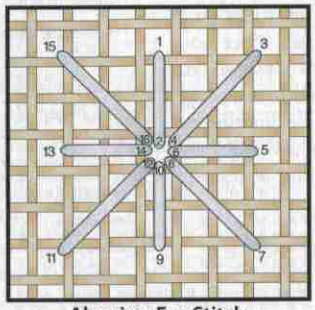
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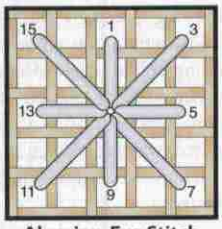
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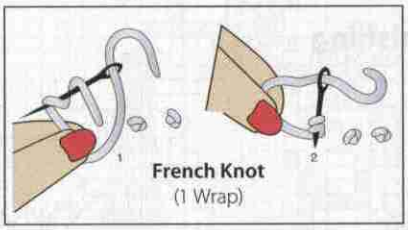
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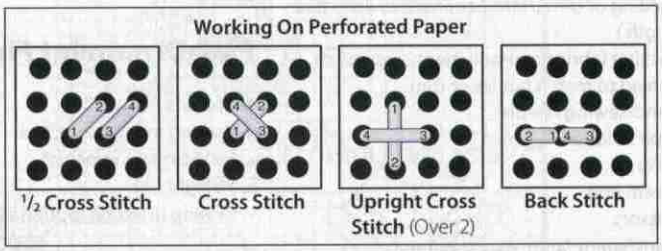

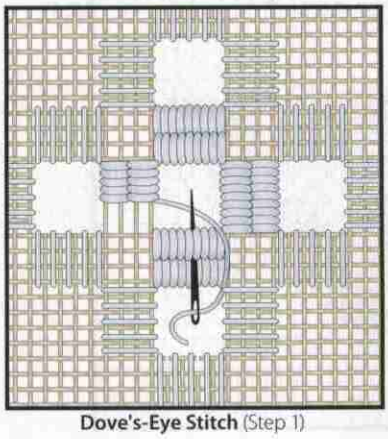
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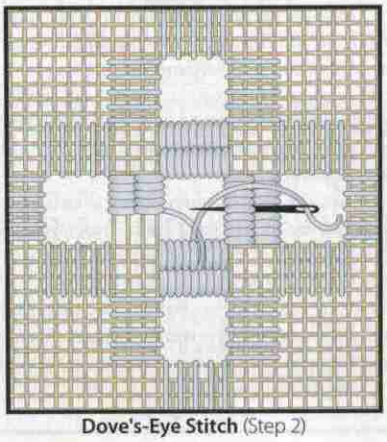
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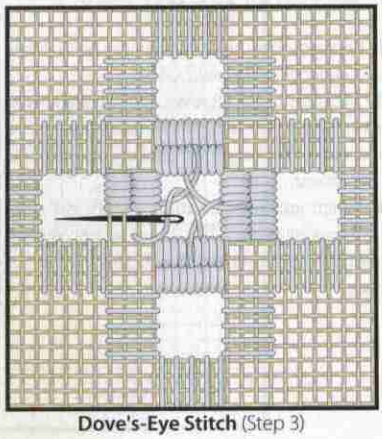
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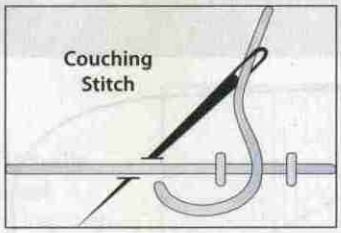
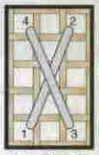
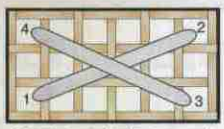




Vertical Elongated Cross Stitch (Over 4)



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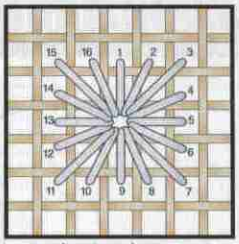

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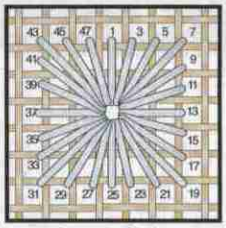
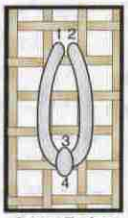
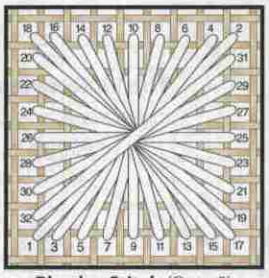


Eyelet Stitch (Over 8)



Lazy Daisy Stitch



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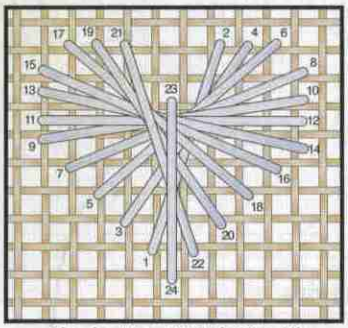
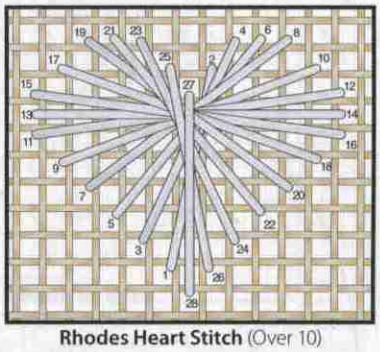
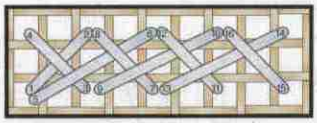


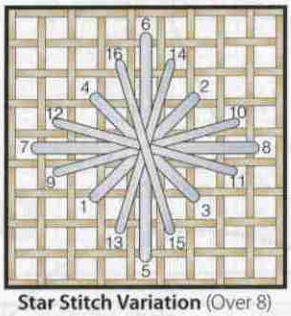
Rhodes Heart Stitch (Over 9)



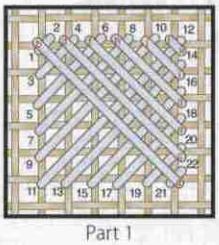
Rhodes Heart Stitch (Over 10)



Long-Arm Cross Stitch



Star Stitch Variation (Over 8)



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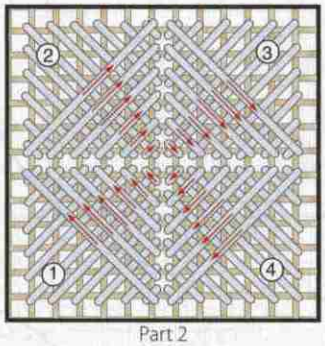
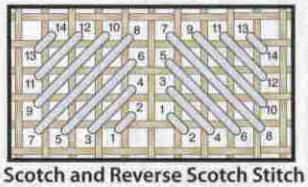
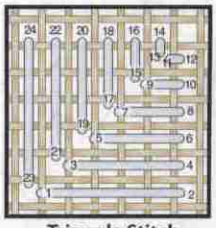


Part 2

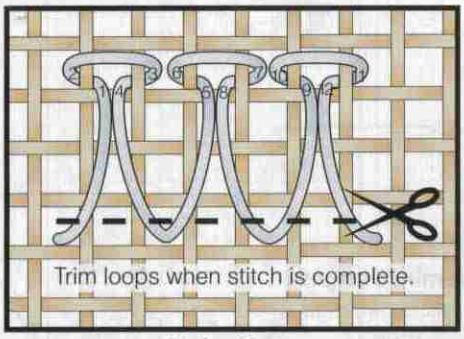
Cross-Corner Cushion Stitch (Over 12)



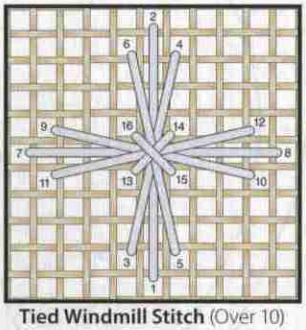
Scotch and Reverse Scotch Stitch (Over 4)



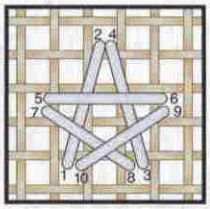
Triangle Stitch Variation (Over 6)



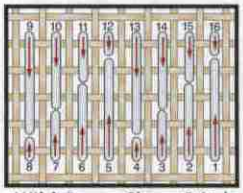
Turkey Knot



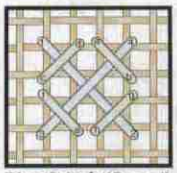
Tied Windmill Stitch (Over 10)



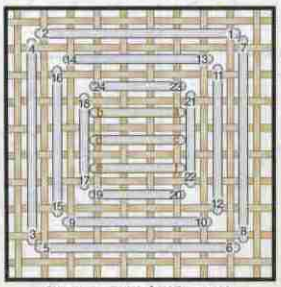
Star Stitch (Over 4)



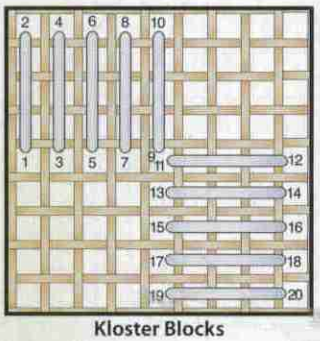
Wild Goose Chase Stitch



Rice Stitch (Over 4)



Frame Stitch (Over 8)



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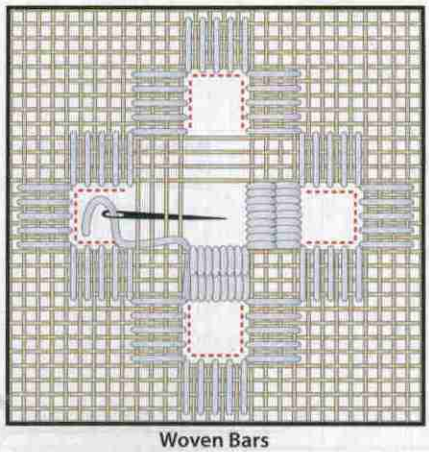
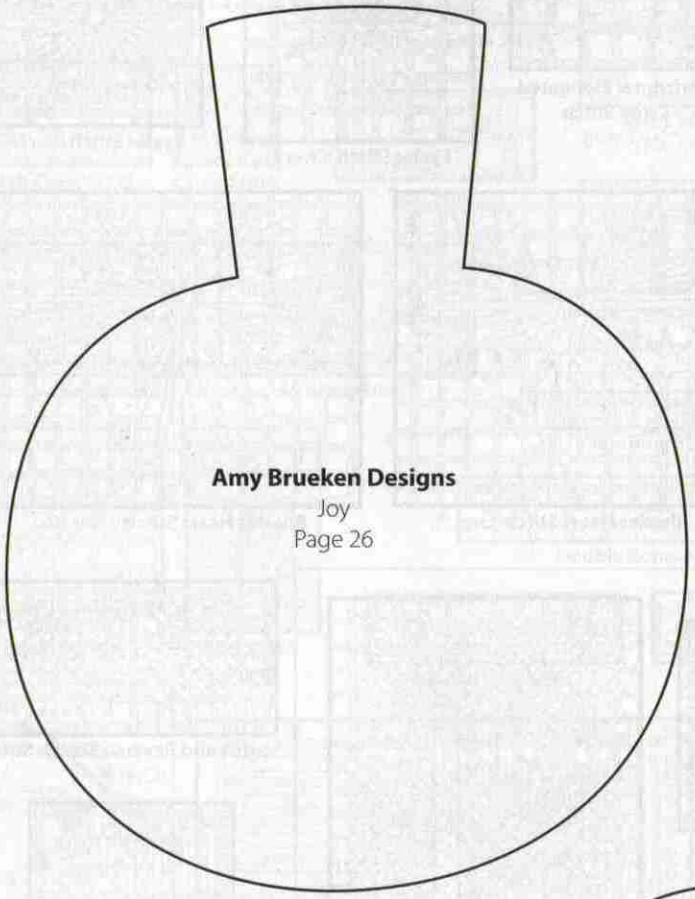


Woven Bars



Amy Brueken Designs
Joy
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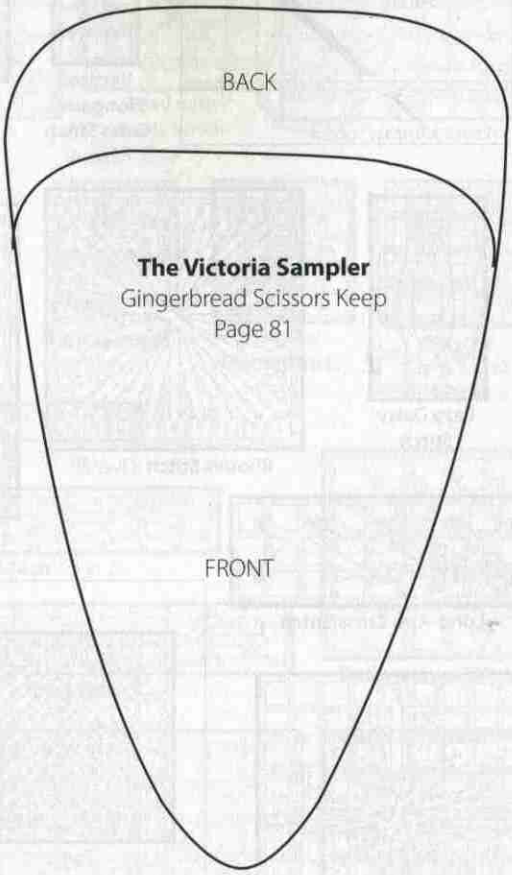

The Victoria Sampler
Gingerbread Scissors Keep
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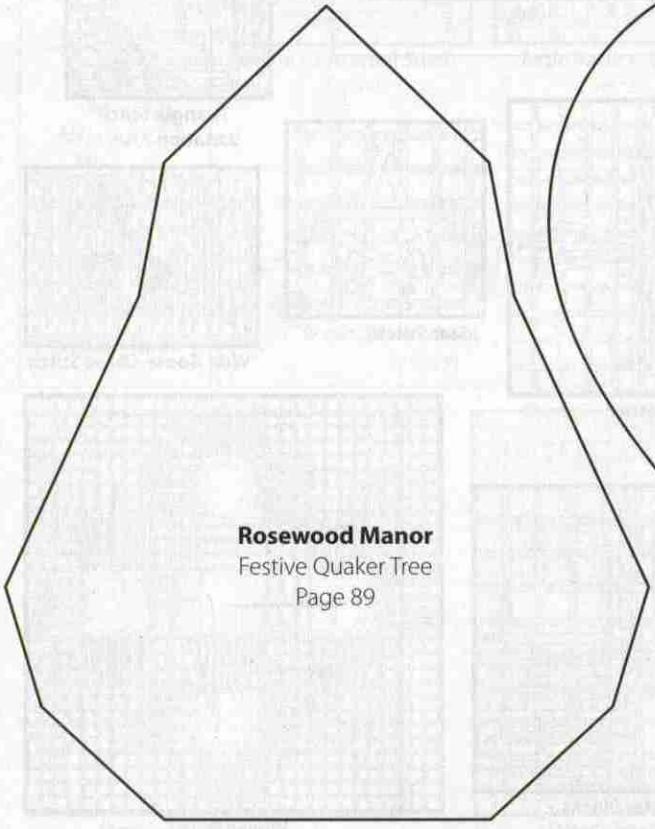
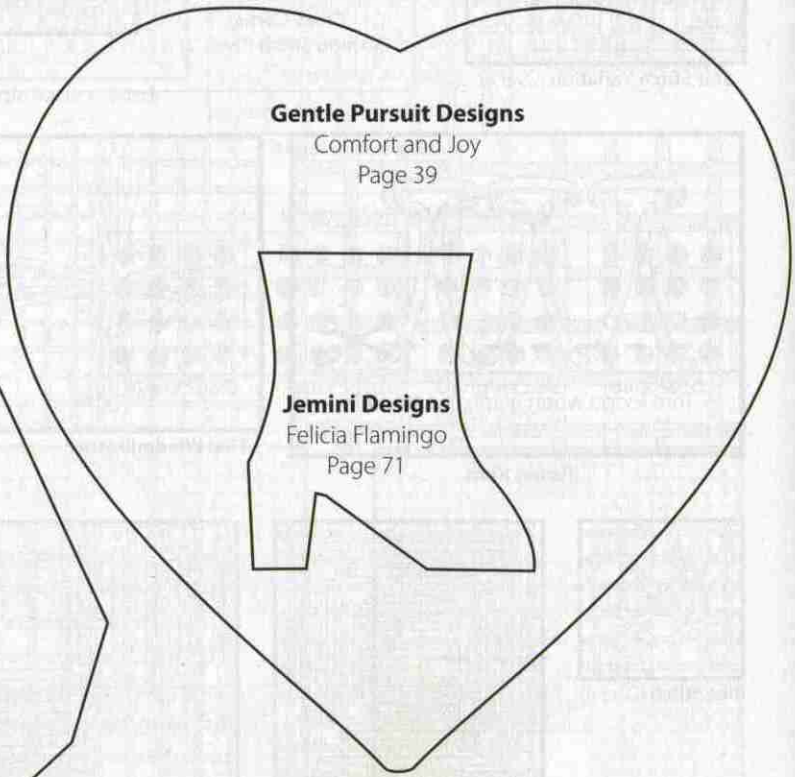


Rosewood Manor
Festive Quaker Tree
Page 89



Gentle Pursuit Designs
Comfort and Joy
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Jemini Designs
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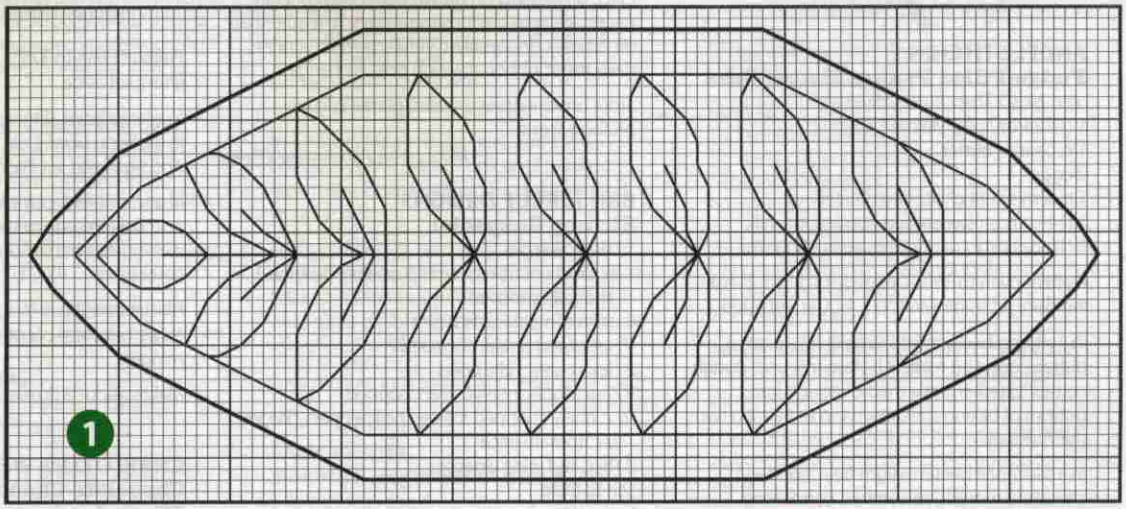
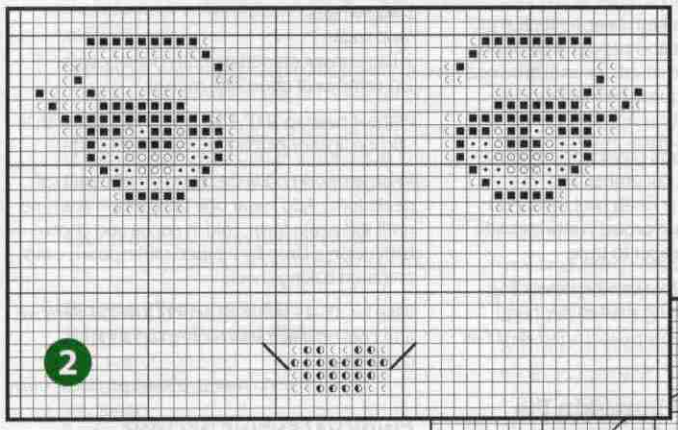
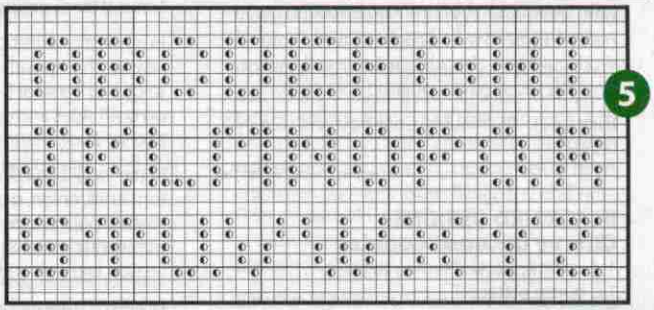
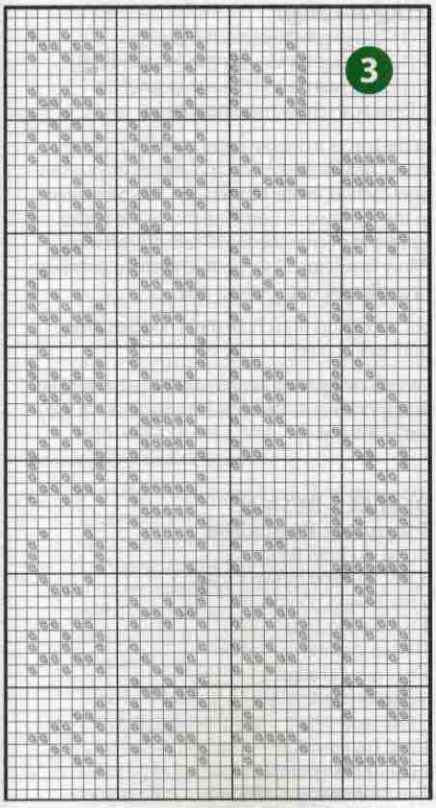
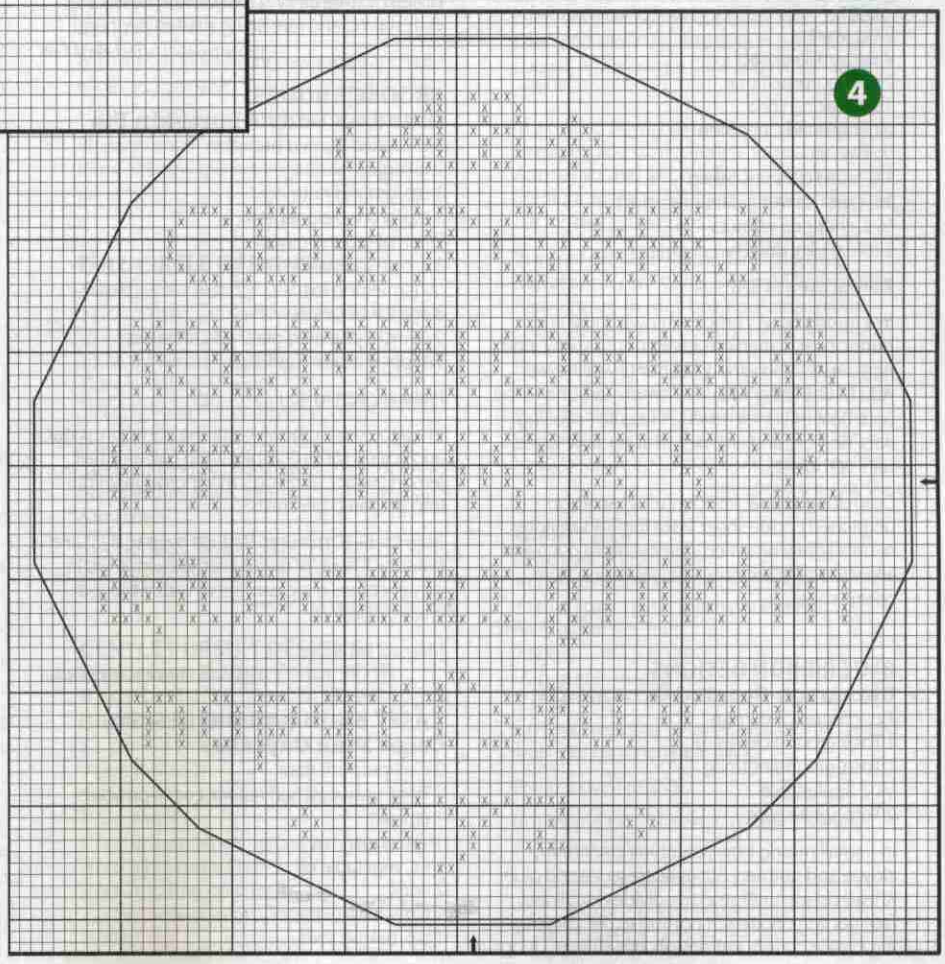
1. **It's Fine-ally Finished**
   Over-One Chart
2. **M Designs**
   Over-One Chart
3. **Cherished Stitches**
   Alphabet Chart
4. **Legacy Designs**
   Alphabet Chart
5. **Milady's Needle**
   Alphabet Chart











Recipes

ANGEL STITCHIN
Fudge-Filled Peanut Butter Bars

½ c. plus 2 Tbsp. butter, divided
1 (18.25-oz.) pkg. yellow cake mix
1 c. peanut butter
2 eggs
1 c. semisweet chocolate morsels
1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
1 (16-oz.) pkg. coconut-pecan frosting mix

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 13" x 9" x 2" baking dish; set aside. Melt ½ c. butter; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, combine cake mix, peanut butter, eggs, and melted butter; mix until dough comes together. Pat a third of dough into bottom of baking dish, reserving remaining two-thirds dough.

In a saucepan over medium heat, combine chocolate morsels, sweetened condensed milk, and remaining butter; melt. Remove from heat and spread over dough mixture. (Note: Work quickly as chocolate mixture will harden.) Crumble reserved dough atop chocolate.

Bake for 20–25 minutes. Cool; frost and slice into bars.

— Recipe provided by Jan Fate

BLACKBIRD DESIGNS
Cherry Oatmeal Cookies

1½ c. firmly packed brown sugar
1 c. butter, softened
2 eggs
2 tsp. water
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. salt
1 c. rolled oats, uncooked
1 c. quick-cooking oats, uncooked
½ c. chopped walnuts
1 (6-oz.) pkg. dried tart cherries

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a mixing bowl, combine brown sugar and butter; beat at medium speed until creamy. Add eggs, water, and vanilla; beat until well mixed. Add flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, and rolled oats; beat until well mixed. Add quick-cooking oats, walnuts, and cherries; beat on slow speed until combined.

Drop dough by tablespoonfuls 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 9–11 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove from oven and allow to sit for 1 minute until removing from cookie sheet.

— Recipe provided by Alma Allen

BLUE RIBBON DESIGNS
Cinnamon-Scented Ornaments

1 c. ground cinnamon
1 Tbsp. ground cloves
1 Tbsp. ground nutmeg
¾ c. applesauce
2 Tbsp. white glue

In a small mixing bowl, combine cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg. Stir in applesauce and glue. Knead dough until smooth; divide dough into four portions. Roll each portion to ¼" thick. Using cookie cutters, cut dough into shapes. Using a drinking straw, make a small hole in top of each for hanging, if desired.

Place ornaments on brown paper bags or craft paper; allow to dry for several days. To assure that ornaments dry evenly, carefully turn ornaments daily. Insert ribbon through hole for hanging.

Store ornaments in a sealed plastic bag to prolong scent.

— Recipe provided by Belinda Karls-Nace

BRITTERCUP DESIGNS
Shrimp Gazpacho

1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 lb. med. uncooked shrimp, peeled, deveined, and tails removed
6 plum tomatoes, chopped
½ small red onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
½ cucumber, peeled and chopped
½ c. finely chopped roasted bell peppers, divided
1½ c. tomato juice
2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
Salt to taste
Ground black pepper to taste

In a nonstick skillet over high heat, heat olive oil. Season shrimp with salt and pepper. Add shrimp to oil and cook for 3–4 minutes, or until browned on both sides and opaque in center. Remove and set aside.

In the work bowl of a food processor, combine tomatoes, onion, garlic, cucumber, and ¼ c. roasted peppers; process until combined. Add tomato juice and vinegar; process until smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Divide mixture among four serving bowls. Top with shrimp and remaining roasted peppers.

— Recipe provided by Michelle M. Lash

BROOKE'S BOOKS
Grandma Eddy's Pumpkin Pie

3 c. cooked pureed pumpkin
2 c. sugar
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
Pinch of ground ginger
3 c. half-and-half
½ tsp. lemon extract
3 eggs, well beaten
2 (9-inch) prepared pie shells, unbaked
Whipped cream (optional)

Preheat oven to 450°.

In a large mixing bowl, combine pumpkin, sugar, and spices; stir to combine. Add half-and-half, lemon extract, and eggs; mix thoroughly. Pour into prepared pie crusts.

Bake for 8–10 minutes. Reduce oven to 325° and bake for 1 hour, or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Serve with whipped cream, if desired.

Makes 2 large pies.

— Recipe provided by Brooke Nolan

CASEY BUONAUGURIO DESIGNS
Cocoa Pink Cupcakes

2 c. all-purpose flour
1 Tbsp. unsweetened natural cocoa powder
1 tsp. salt
1¼ c. sugar
¾ c. vegetable oil
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. baking soda
1 c. cold water
1 (12-oz.) pkg. semisweet chocolate morsels
½ c. chopped pecans
1 c. sweetened baking coconut

Preheat oven to 375°. Line cupcake pan with liners; set aside.

In a large bowl, sift together flour, cocoa, and salt. In a mixing bowl, beat together sugar and oil. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well.

In a small bowl, combine baking soda and water. Add baking soda to sugar mixture; mix well. Add wet ingredients to flour mixture, and stir until combined.

Fill cupcake liners ¾ full. Sprinkle chocolate chips, nuts, and coconut on top. Bake for 20–25 minutes.

Makes about 2 dozen.

— Recipe provided by Casey Buonaugurio

CHARLOTTE'S WEB NEEDLEWORK
Chocolate Chocolate-Chip Meringues

3 egg whites
¾ c. sugar
2 Tbsp. unsweetened natural cocoa powder
2 c. semisweet chocolate morsels

Preheat oven to 300°. Line a baking sheet with a silicone liner or parchment paper; set aside.

In large mixing bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Add sugar one tablespoon at a time until stiff peaks form. Fold in cocoa and chocolate morsels. Drop by heaped tablespoons onto prepared baking sheet.

Bake for 35–45 minutes, or until just dry. Remove and cool on wire racks. Store in an airtight container.

— Recipe provided by Charlotte Smyth

CINDY VALENTINE DESIGNS
Ting-A-Lings

1 (11-oz.) pkg. butterscotch morsels
1 (12-oz.) pkg. semisweet chocolate morsels
1 (12.5-oz.) can salted Spanish peanuts
1 (5-oz.) can chow mein noodles

In the top of a double boiler over simmering water, heat butterscotch and chocolate morsels until melted. (Note: Morsels can also be melted in the microwave. Combine morsels in a glass bowl and microwave for 30 seconds on High. Allow to rest for 30 seconds and stir to distribute heat. Repeat until melted; stir.)

Stir in peanuts and chow mein noodles. Mix until well coated.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper and let set for one hour. These freeze very well—if they last that long!

— Recipe provided by Cindy Valentine

DEBBEE'S DESIGNS
Pumpkin Pancakes

2 c. all-purpose flour
3 Tbsp. packed brown sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1½ tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. ground allspice
½ tsp. ground ginger
½ tsp. salt
1½ c. buttermilk
1 (29-oz.) can pumpkin
¼ c. fat-free egg substitute

2 Tbsp. unsweetened applesauce
Hot syrup, if desired

In a large bowl, whisk together dry ingredients. In a separate bowl, whisk together buttermilk, pumpkin, egg substitute, and applesauce. Add flour mixture to buttermilk mixture, stirring until combined.

Heat griddle and spray with cooking spray. Drop batter by 1/4 cupfuls onto hot griddle, spreading with a spoon or spatula (batter is very thick). Turn pancakes when large bubbles form and break. Remove pancakes from griddle when steam rises from the cakes. Spray griddle between each batch.

Makes 16 pancakes. Serve with hot syrup!

— Recipe provided by Debbie Rowley

DRAGON DREAMS
Busy Stitcher's Cookie Cheat

1 (17.5-oz.) pkg. sugar cookie mix
1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1 (12-oz.) pkg. Hershey's Hugs® or Kisses®

Prepare sugar cookie dough according to manufacturer's directions, adding flour to stiffen dough.

Roll dough out onto floured surface and cut out 2" circles with a floured glass or cookie cutter.

Place one Hershey's Hug® or Kiss® in the center of the circle and fold dough around it to form a bundle. Pinch top, but do not worry about sealing completely.

Bake as directed. Allow to cool; enjoy!

— Recipe provided by Jennifer Aikman-Smith

ELIZABETH'S DESIGNS
Blueberry Pound Cake

1/2 c. butter, softened
4 oz. neufchâtel cream cheese
2 c. sugar
3 large eggs
1 large egg white
3 c. all-purpose flour, divided
2 c. fresh or frozen blueberries
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1 (8-oz.) carton low-fat lemon yogurt
2 tsp. vanilla extract

Glaze:
1/4 c. confectioners' sugar
4 tsp. lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 10" Bundt® pan; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together butter, cream cheese, and sugar until creamy. Mix for 5 minutes, or until well blended. Add eggs and egg white one at a time, beating well after each addition.

In a small bowl, combine 2 Tbsp. flour and blueberries; toss to coat. In a separate bowl, combine remaining flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Gradually add to butter mixture, alternating with yogurt and ending with flour; mixing until combined. Fold in blueberries and vanilla extract. Pour into prepared pan.

Bake for 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until toothpick inserted into middle comes out clean. Cool cake for 10 minutes and remove from pan. In a small bowl, combine confectioners' sugar and lemon juice; mix well. Drizzle over warm cake.

— Recipe provided by Elizabeth Foster

FANCI THAT
Cranberry Ice

1 (12-oz.) bag cranberries, washed
3 c. water
2 1/2 c. sugar
1/2 tsp. ground cloves
Grated rind of one lemon
1 1/2 Tbsp. lemon juice

In a boiler over medium heat, combine cranberries and water. Cook until cranberries are mushy. Drain water from cranberries; set water aside.

Mash cranberries with a potato masher. Add sugar, cloves, and lemon rind. Slowly add water back to cranberries; return to heat and cook until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and allow to cool. Add lemon juice; stir well.

Pour mixture into a loaf pan; freeze until solid.

— Recipe provided by Beth Hendlzik

FANCY WORK
Roasted Vegetables and Rice

1 lb. zucchini, diced
1 lb. yellow squash, diced
1 lg. sweet onion, diced
1 red bell pepper, diced
2 Tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. seasoned salt
1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper
2 (8.5-oz) pkgs. ready-to-serve brown and wild rice mix

Preheat oven to 450°. Coat one 15" x 10" baking sheet with cooking spray; set aside.

In a large bowl, combine vegetables, oil, and seasonings; toss to coat vegetables. Place on prepared baking sheet.

Bake for 20 minutes; stir vegetables and bake for an additional 20 minutes, or until slightly crisp and golden.

Prepare rice according to manufacturer's directions. Stir rice and hot vegetables together; serve.

— Recipe provided by Jane Timmers

FULL CIRCLE DESIGNS
Ambra's Candy

1 (16-oz.) pkg. vanilla-flavored candy coating
1/2 c. peanut butter
1 1/2 c. mini marshmallows
1 1/2 c. unsalted peanuts
1 1/2 c. Kellogg's® Rice Krispies® cereal

Following manufacturer's directions, melt candy coating. Add peanut butter; mix well. Add marshmallows, peanuts, and cereal; stir to combine.

Drop by teaspoonsful onto wax paper. Let cool and enjoy!

— Recipe provided by Lynda Watkins

GENTLE PURSUIT DESIGNS
Chocolate Fudge Cake With Vanilla Buttercream Frosting & Chocolate Ganache Glaze

3 c. packed brown sugar
3/4 c. canola oil
3 eggs
1 1/2 c. water
1 1/8 c. unsweetened natural cocoa powder
2 2/3 c. all-purpose flour
2 1/4 tsp. baking powder
2 1/4 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
1 1/2 c. milk

Frosting:
3 c. butter, softened
3 c. sifted confectioners' sugar
2 Tbsp. vanilla extract
Pinch of salt

Ganache:
1 1/4 c. semisweet chocolate morsels
3/4 Tbsp. light corn syrup
3/4 c. heavy cream

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and line the bottoms of three 10" cake pans with parchment paper; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, combine brown sugar and oil. Beat on Low until combined; add eggs. Mix well.

In a small boiler over medium heat, bring water to a boil. Add cocoa and whisk until smooth.

In a large bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; set aside. In small bowl, combine vanilla and milk; set aside. Add flour mixture to sugar mixture, alternating with milk mixture and scraping down sides of bowl after each addition. (Note: Begin and end with flour mixture.) Mix until combined. With mixer at a low speed, add cocoa mixture. Pour into prepared cake pans.

Bake for 15 minutes, or until tester inserted into center of cake comes out clean. Remove from oven and allow layers to cool in pans. When cooled, remove from pans and refrigerate until cold.

In a mixing bowl, beat butter on low speed. Gradually add confectioners' sugar; mix well. Add vanilla and salt; mix for 5—7 minutes on Medium speed. Frost layers and cake; refrigerate for 10—20 minutes.

In a heat-proof bowl, combine chocolate morsels and corn syrup. In a small boiler, bring heavy cream to a full boil. Pour cream over chocolate and whisk until smooth; set aside.

Pour ganache over cake. Using a cake spatula, smooth top of cake and allow ganache to spill over the sides. Refrigerate for at least 20 minutes before serving. Serve cake cold or allow it to come to room temperature before serving.

— Recipe provided by Cissy Smith

GLORY BEE
Noodle Pudding

1 (12-oz.) container cottage cheese
1 (4-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
3/4 c. sugar
7 eggs
1/2 c. butter, melted
1/2 c. oil
1 (16-oz.) pkg. egg noodles, cooked and drained
1 (21-oz.) can cherry pie filling

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a mixing bowl, cream together cheeses, sugar, and eggs.

In a small bowl, combine butter and oil; mix well. Pour 1/2 butter mixture into a 10" x 13" x 2" baking pan; set aside. Pour remaining butter

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mixture over cooked noodles. Add cheese mixture to noodles and stir to combine. Pour into buttered baking pan. Bake for 1 hour, or until lightly browned.

Remove from oven; using the handle of a wooden spoon, poke holes in top of baked noodles. Pour pie filling over top.

— Recipe provided by Nancy Boyarsky

HEARTSTRINGS/THE ARTISTS COLLECTION
Jo's Cheese Things

1 c. shredded Cheddar cheese
1/2 c. Miracle Whip®
1/4 c. finely chopped onion
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. Worchestershire sauce
1/4 c. finely chopped parsley
Prepared English muffins, halved
Poppy seeds (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a medium bowl, combine cheese, Miracle Whip, onion, salt, Worchestershire sauce, and parsley; mix well. Spread on muffin halves and sprinkle with poppy seeds, if desired.

Bake for 10–15 minutes.

— Recipe provided by Pat Thodé

HOMESPUN ELEGANCE
Pumpkin Bread

3 c. canned pumpkin
1 c. sugar
1 c. packed brown sugar
4 eggs
1 tsp. ground ginger
1 c. vegetable oil
3 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
3/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
3/4 c. buttermilk, divided

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease one 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pan; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together pumpkin and sugars until creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add ginger and oil; mix well.

In a large bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Add one fourth flour mixture to pumpkin mixture; mix well. Add 1/4 c. buttermilk; mix well. Repeat until all dry ingredients and buttermilk are added. (Note: End with dry ingredients.)

Pour into prepared loaf pan. Bake for 20–25 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.

— Recipe provided by Sandra Sullivan

INK CIRCLES
Pumpkin Bread

3 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. salt
1 1/2 c. sugar
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. ground allspice
1 (8-oz.) pkg. semisweet chocolate morsels
2 c. pumpkin puree
1 c. canola oil
4 eggs, beaten
1/2 c. water

Preheat oven to 350°. Butter two 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pans; set aside.

In a large bowl, combine flour, salt, sugar, baking soda, spices, and chocolate morsels.

In a medium bowl, combine pumpkin, oil, eggs, and water; mix well. Add to flour mixture, stirring until combined. Divide dough between prepared pans.

Bake for 50–60 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan and allow to cool. Slice and serve.

Makes two loaves.

— Recipe provided by Tracy Horner

IT'S FINE-ALLY FINISHED
Créme Brûlée

2 c. heavy cream
5 egg yolks
1/2 c. sugar
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
1 c. packed light brown sugar, divided

Preheat oven to 275°. In a large bowl, whisk together cream, egg yolks, sugar, and vanilla until mixture reaches a creamy consistency. Pour mixture into four 8-oz. ramekins.

Place ramekins in a baking pan; pour enough hot water into the pan, filling halfway up sides of ramekins.

Bake for 45–60 minutes, or until a knife inserted into the center of one ramekin comes out clean. Remove ramekins from baking pan and allow to cool for 15 minutes. Place in refrigerator; chill overnight.

Just before serving, sprinkle 1/4 c. brown sugar atop custard in each ramekin, making sure to cover custard completely. Using a kitchen torch, melt sugar to form a crispy top.

Serves 4.

— Recipe provided by Jackie du Plessis

KITTY & ME DESIGNS
Drop Sugar Cookies

1 c. sugar
1 c. butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 egg
1/2 tsp. baking soda
2 1/3 c. all-purpose flour
1 (12-oz.) pkg. semisweet chocolate mini morsels
Sugar for sprinkling (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease two baking sheets; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together sugar and butter until creamy. Add vanilla, egg, and baking soda; mix well. Add flour 1 c. at a time, beating until combined after each addition. Stir in chocolate morsels.

Drop by tablespoonfuls onto prepared baking sheets; flatten with the bottom of a drinking glass dipped in sugar.

Bake for 8 minutes, or until lightly browned.

— Recipe provided by Pamela Kellogg

LA-D-DA
Grammy Bea's Holiday Nuts

1 lb. pecans or walnuts (halves or whole)
1/2 c. butter
2 egg whites
1 c. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 250°.

Place nuts in a single layer in a 9" x 13" baking pan; bake for 30 minutes. Remove from oven and remove nuts; set aside.

Add butter to pan and return to oven. In a mixing bowl, beat egg whites until stiff; gradually add sugar and salt. Carefully fold nuts into egg mixture; stir gently to cover nuts. Remove baking pan from oven and add nuts to butter. Increase oven temperature to 300°. Bake nuts for 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes.

Remove from oven and place on a paper towel to drain. Separate nuts while warm or they will stick together. Enjoy!

— Recipe provided by Lori Markovic

LADYBUG LANE DESIGNS
Banana Cupcakes

1/2 c. butter
1 c. sugar
2 eggs
1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
2 Tbsp. buttermilk
2 bananas, mashed
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
1 c. chopped nuts
Prepared vanilla or banana frosting (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°. Line two 12-cup muffin pans with paper liners; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together butter and sugar until creamy. Add eggs; mix well.

In a large bowl, sift together flour and soda. Add to butter mixture, alternating with buttermilk; mix until combined. Add bananas, vanilla, and nuts. Mix well. Fill prepared muffin tins 1/2 full.

Bake for 15–20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Remove from oven and allow to cool. If desired, frost with vanilla or banana frosting.

— Recipe provided by Jennifer Cooke-Rabig

LEGACY DESIGNS
Marinated Mushrooms

1 1/2–2 lb. small to medium mushrooms, stemmed
1 c. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2–3/4 c. dry white wine
2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 Tbsp. minced onion
1 tsp. dried oregano
3 cloves garlic, pressed
1 Tbsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
Wash, drain, and pat mushrooms dry.

As cold hors d'ouevres: In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Let stand at room temperature for several hours, stirring occassionally. Chill before serving.

As hot hors d'ouevres: In a large saucepan over low heat, combine all ingredients. Simmer for 30–40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve warm.

Serves 8–10.

— Recipe provided by Fran Colburn

LITTLE BY LITTLE DESIGN CO.
Poinsettia Mimosas

6 c. cranberry juice
1/2 c. triple sec
4 Tbsp. grenadine
1 (750 ml) bottle champagne
1 orange, sliced

In a large pitcher, combine cranberry juice, triple sec, grenadine, and champange; stir to combine. Add orange slices for garnish. Serve.

— Recipe provided by Cynthia Daly Bradford

LOOPYLOU DESIGNS
Boozy Log

24 ginger snaps or chocolate-chip cookies
4 Tbsp. rum
1 1/2 c. heavy whipping cream
1 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1 1/2 Tbsp. superfine sugar
1 1/2 Tbsp. prepared ginger syrup

Place the cookies in a shallow dish. Sprinkle with rum; set aside until liquid is completely absorbed.

In a mixing bowl, whip cream, ground ginger, and sugar until stiff. Gently fold in the syrup.

Set aside 1/3 of cream mixture. Sandwich cookies together, using remaining cream mixture, and form into long roll. Cover roll with remaining cream.

— Recipe provided by Lynda Bodkin

MIDSUMMER NIGHT DESIGNS
Snickerdoodle Cookies

1 c. butter, softened
1 1/2 c. plus 3 Tbsp. sugar, divided
2 large eggs
2 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
3 tsp. ground cinnamon

In a mixing bowl, beat together butter, 1 1/2 c. sugar, and eggs until creamy.

In a large bowl, combine flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt; mix well. Add to butter mixture, stirring until combined. Place dough in refrigerator, along with an ungreased baking sheet, and chill for 10–15 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a small bowl, combine remaning sugar and cinnamon; stir together. Remove dough and baking sheet from refrigerator. Divide dough into 1" balls and roll in sugar and cinnamon mixture; place on cookie sheet.

Bake for 10 minutes. Remove from baking sheet immediately.

— Recipe provided by Deborah Thorpe

MILADY'S NEEDLE
Toffee Bars

1/2 c. butter, softened
1/2 c. shortening
1 c. brown sugar
1 egg yolk
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1 (12-oz.) pkg. semisweet chocolate morsels
1 c. chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly grease a rimmed baking sheet; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together butter and shortening until creamy. Add sugar; mix well. Add egg yolk and vanilla and beat until smooth.

In a large bowl, combine flour and salt. Gradually add to butter mixture, mixing until smooth. Press mixture into prepared cookie sheet.

Bake for 10–15 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate morsels over cookie dough to melt; if necessary, return baking sheet to oven to melt chocolate. Spread melted chocolate over cookie dough, using a frosting spatula. Sprinkle walnuts on top of chocolate.

Cool and cut into bars. Enjoy!

— Recipe provided by Gloria Moore

MONSTERBUBBLES
Christmas in July Salsa

4 large tomatoes, chopped
4 peaches, chopped
1 small red onion, diced
1 bunch fresh cilantro, minced
2 tsp. salt
3 Tbsp. lime juice
2 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 Tbsp. sugar

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients; mix well and serve.

— Recipe provided by Heather Holland-Daly

MOSEY 'N ME
Sour Cream Poundcake

1 c. butter, softened
3 c. sugar
6 eggs, separated
3 c. sifted all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1 c. sour cream
2 tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 325°. Grease a tube pan; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together butter and sugar until creamy. Add egg yolks to butter mixture, mixing well after each addition.

In a large bowl, combine flour and soda. Add to butter mixture, alternating with sour cream. Add vanilla; mix until combined.

In a medium bowl, beat egg whites until stiff. Carefully fold into batter. Pour into prepared tube pan.

Bake for 1 1/2 hours. Let stand for 15 minutes before removing from pan.

This cake is also very good for freezing, which around our household never happens.

— Recipe provided by Judy Bielec

MY BIG TOE DESIGNS
Black Bean & Rice Soup

2 (14-oz.) cans chicken broth
5 (15-oz.) cans black beans, drained
1 bunch cilantro leaves, washed and trimmed
1 Tbsp. ground cumin
1 (16-oz.) jar salsa verde
2 c. cooked rice
Cheese (optional)
Tortilla chips (optional)
Sour cream (optional)
Fresh salsa (optional)

In a blender, combine one can of chicken broth, two cans of black beans, cilantro, cumin, and salsa verde. Blend until creamy.

In a large stockpot over medium heat, combine pureed broth mixture, remaining chicken broth and remaining black beans. Bring to a simmer and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Divide rice among bowls and top with soup. Add cheese, tortilla chips, sour cream, and salsa, if desired.

— Recipe provided by Debbie Booth

NORDIC NEEDLE
Sausage 'n Egg Bake

1 1/2 lb. seasoned pork sausage
12 lg. eggs, lightly beaten
3 c. shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
1/2 c. minced onion
3/4 c. chopped green bell pepper
2 c. sliced fresh mushrooms
1 c. whipping cream
Fresh fruit (optional)
Muffins (optional)
Toast (optional)

In a large skillet over medium heat, brown sausage; drain well.

Grease a 9" x 13" baking pan; pour eggs into baking pan. Top with sausage, 1 1/2 c. cheese, onions, bell pepper, and mushrooms. Pour cream over top; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°. Bake for one hour. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serve with fresh fruit and muffins or toast.

— Recipe provided by Roz Watnemo

PATRICIA ANN DESIGNS
Lemon Cake

3/4 c. butter
3/4 c. sugar
3 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 c. self-rising flour
Zest of one lemon

Glaze:
Juice of 1 1/2 lemons
1/2 c. sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a cake pan; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together butter and sugar until creamy. Add eggs slowly into butter mixture, beating well after each addition. Gradually add flour, stirring until mixed. Fold in lemon zest.

Bake for 35 minutes. Remove cake from oven and allow to cool.

In a small saucepan over low heat, combine glaze ingredients. Stir gently until sugar dissolves. Bring to a boil and cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat and pour over cooled cake.

Serve with a cup of tea and relax!

— Recipe provided by Patricia Bage

PRAIRIE MOON
Egg and Sausage Soufflé

6 slices bread, cubed
1 c. grated sharp Cheddar cheese
1 lb. sausage, browned and drained
6 eggs, slightly beaten
2 c. milk
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground dry mustard

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In a 9" x 13" baking pan, layer cubed bread and top with cheese and sausage.

In a medium bowl, combine eggs, milk, salt, and dry mustard; mix well. Pour over sausage. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 325°. Bake for 45–60 minutes.

Serves 6.

— Recipe provided by Barbara Syburg & Suzanne Shead

THE PRAIRIE SCHOOLER
Holly Days Cookies

1/3 c. butter
30 lg. marshmallows
1 1/2 tsp. green food coloring
3 c. corn flake cereal
Red hot candies or red M & M's® (optional)

Spray a baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.

In a large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Add marshmallows and stir for 3–4 minutes or until melted. Add food coloring and stir to combine. Add corn flakes and stir to coat. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto prepared baking sheet. (Note: Spray spoon with nonstick cooking spray for easy release.) Add a red candy to the top of each, if desired.

Store in an airtight container at room temperature.

— Recipe provided by Pamela Byrd Smith

THE PRIMITIVE NEEDLE
Deviled Eggs

12 hard-boiled eggs
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground black pepepr
3 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. vinegar
1 Tbsp. prepared yellow mustard
1/3 c. mayonnaise
Dash of celery seed
Paprika

Slice eggs in half lengthwise; remove yolks and set whites aside.

In a small bowl, mash yolks with a fork. Add remaining ingredients, except paprika; mix well. Fill reserved egg whites; sprinkle with paprika.

Refrigerate until serving.

— Recipe provided by Lisa Roswell

PRIMROSE NEEDLEWORKS
Snow-topped Shortbread

1 c. butter, softened
1/2 c. confectioners' sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 c. flaked coconut
Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

Preheat oven to 325°.

In a mixing bowl, beat butter until fluffy. Add sugar and vanilla; beat until smooth.

In a medium bowl, combine flour, salt, and coconut; stir to combine. Gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture; mix until combined. Drop dough into an ungreased 9" x 9" baking pan, spreading dough to edges of pan.

Bake for 20–25 minutes, or until edges are golden. Remove from oven and dust tops with additional confectioners' sugar. While warm, cut into bars.

Makes 20 small bars or 16 large-ish bars.

— Recipe provided by Elizabeth Gorski

RAISE THE ROOF DESIGNS
Homemade Cranberry Sauce

1 (12-oz.) bag cranberries
1 3/4 c. sugar
1 c. water
1 Granny Smith apple, peeled and chopped
Zest and juice of 1 orange
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
3/4 c. walnuts or pecans

In a medium saucepan over low heat, combine cranberries, sugar, and water. Cook for 5 minutes, or until cranberries begin to pop. Add apple, zests, and juices; cook for 15 minutes.

Remove from heat and stir in nuts. Chill until ready to eat.

— Recipe provided by Theresa Venette

ROSEWOOD MANOR
Candy Strawberries

1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
1 (16-oz.) pkg. flaked coconut
1 (3-oz.) pkg. strawberry-flavored gelatin mix
1 c. pecans, finely chopped
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
Green icing (optional)

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients, except green icing; mix well. Shape into strawberry shapes. If desired, add a leaf to the top using green icing.

Store in an airtight container.

Makes 6 dozen.

— Recipe provided by Karen Kluba

THE SAMPLER GIRL
Mama's Banana Muffins

1/2 c. butter, softened
1 c. sugar
1 egg, beaten
1 tsp. baking soda, dissolved in 2 tsp. cold water
1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 c. mashed ripe bananas

Preheat oven to 375°. Line a 12-cup muffin pan with paper liners; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together butter and sugar until creamy. Add egg and mix well. Add dissolved baking soda, flour, nutmeg, and bananas; mix until combined.

Pour batter into prepared muffin pan, filling 3/4 full.

Bake for 20–25 minutes.

— Recipe provided by Tanya Marie Anderson

SAMSARAH DESIGN STUDIO
Sweet Potato Casserole

2 1/4 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped
1 c. half-and-half
3/4 c. brown sugar, packed
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 lg. eggs

Topping:
1 1/2 c. miniature marshmallows
1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 c. brown sugar, packed
1/4 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. chilled butter, cut into small pieces

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease a 9" x 13" baking pan; set aside.

Place sweet potatoes in a large Dutch oven over medium heat and cover with water. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes, or until tender. Drain and allow to cool slightly.

In a mixing bowl, combine potatoes, half-and-half, brown sugar, salt, and vanilla; mix until smooth. Add eggs; beat well. Pour mixture into prepared baking pan.

Sprinkle marshmallows on top of potato mixture. In a small bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, and salt; using a pastry blender, cut in butter until mixture is coarse. Sprinkle on top of marshmallows.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until golden brown.

— Recipe provided by Patti Connor

SCANDINAVIAN STITCHES
Rinkeli—Finnish Cinnamon & Brown Sugar-filled Bread

1 c. milk
2 1/2 tsp. rapid-rise yeast
1 egg
1/2 c. sugar
1 Tbsp. coarsely ground cardamom
1 tsp. salt
2 1/2–3 c. all-purpose flour
7 Tbsp. butter, melted

Filling:
7 Tbsp. butter, softened
1 c. dark brown sugar
2 Tbsp. ground cinnamon

Topping:
1 egg, beaten
Sliced almonds
Sugar

In a medium saucepan, heat milk to 90°. In a mixing bowl, combine milk, yeast, egg, sugar, cardamom and salt. Slowly whisk flour into milk mixture, adding butter before last 1 c. of flour. Final dough consistency should be spongy and should not stick to the bowl.

Cover the mixing bowl with a towel; allow dough to rise in a warm spot until doubled in size, about 2–3 hours. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface, and, using a rolling pin, roll to a 12" x 30" rectangle.

In a small bowl, combine all filling ingredients. Sprinkle evenly over dough. Roll dough lengthwise into a tight roll. Place roll, seam side down, on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and form into a circle. Using kitchen shears, cut surface of roll every 1/2", being careful not to cut all the way through. Turn each half inch segment, alternating left and right. Allow to rise for 20 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°. Brush roll with egg and sprinkle with almonds and sugar.

Bake for 25 minutes.

— Recipe provided by Lynda Baldauf

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SHEPHERD'S BUSH PRINTWORKS
Christmas Fudge

4 1/2 c. sugar
1 (12-oz.) can evaporated milk
1 c. butter
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
1 (12-oz.) pkg. semisweet chocolate morsels

Butter a 9" x 13" baking pan; set aside.

In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar and milk. Bring to a boil and boil for 7 minutes without stirring.

In a large bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Carefully add boiling sugar mixture. Stir vigorouly until well mixed and smooth.

Pour into prepared baking pan. Cover and keep in a cool place until fudge sets. Cut and serve.

— Recipe provided by Tina Richards Herman

STILL STITCHING WITH SUSAN
CJ's Dip

1 1/4-lb. ground chuck
1 (1.25-oz.) pkg. taco seasoning mix
1 (16-oz.) pkg. Velveeta® cheese, cubed
1 (16-oz.) can refried beans
Tortilla chips

In a large skillet over medium heat, brown meat; drain fat.

Following manufacturer's directions, add seasoning mix. Stir in cheese and beans.

Serve with chips.

— Recipe provided by Susan Greening Davis

THE STITCHWORKS™
Corn Dip

2 (11-oz.) cans Green Giant® Mexicorn®, drained
1 (4.5-oz.) cans chopped green chilies
1 (4-oz.) jar sliced pimentos
1 c. mayonnaise
3 oz. shredded Parmesan cheese
12 oz. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
Corn chips (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 2-quart casserole dish; set aside.

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients; mix well. Pour into prepared casserole dish.

Bake for 35–40 minutes, or until browned and bubbly. Serve with corn chips, if desired.

— Recipe provided by Cindy and David Morrill

SUE HILLIS DESIGNS
Lemon Pull-Aparts

1 pkg. frozen warm-and-serve butter dinner rolls
1 Tbsp. butter, melted
1/4 c. sugar
Rind of one lemon, grated

Citrus Glaze:
2 tsp. melted butter
3/4 c. confectioners' sugar
2 Tbsp. lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350°.

Remove frozen rolls from pan and dip into melted butter; place rolls back into pan.

In a small bowl, combine sugar and lemon rind; sprinkle on top of buttered rolls.

Bake for 15 minutes. Remove from pan and place on serving plate.

In a small bowl, combine all glaze ingredients and stir until smooth. Drizzle over warm rolls and serve.

— Recipe provided by Sue Hillis

THE SUNFLOWER SEED
Cappuccino Punch

1/2 c. sugar
1/4 c. instant coffee granules
1 c. boiling water
2 qts. milk
1 qt. vanilla ice cream, softened
1 qt. chocolate ice cream, softened

In a small bowl, combine sugar and coffee. Add boiling water and stir until dissolved. Cover and refrigerate until chilled.

In a large punch bowl, combine coffee mixture and milk; stir until combined. Add ice cream and stir until melted.

Makes about 1 gallon.

— Recipe provided by Anita Boatright

SWEET PEA DESIGNS
Grandma Stoneback's Banana Nut Bread

1 c. sugar
1/2 c. shortening
2 eggs
3 ripe bananas, mashed
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
Pinch of salt
1/2–1 c. chopped black walnuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease two 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pans and dust with flour; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat together sugar and shortening until smooth. Add eggs and bananas to sugar mixture; mix well.

In a large bowl, combine baking soda, baking powder, flour, and salt. Add to sugar mixture and mix until combined well. If desired, add nuts. Pour into prepared pans.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

— Recipe provided by Angie Williams

VAL'S STUFF
Red Velvet Cake

2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. natural cocoa powder
3/4 c. vegetable oil
1 1/2 c. sugar
2 eggs
1 (1-oz.) bottle red food coloring
1 c. buttermilk
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. white vinegar

Glaze:
3/4 c. milk
1/2 c. sugar

Frosting:
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/2 c. butter, softened
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 (16-oz.) pkg. confectioners' sugar
1 c. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease two 9" round cake pans and dust with flour; set aside.

In a large bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, salt, and cocoa. In a mixing bowl, beat together oil and sugar. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add food coloring and mix well.

In a small bowl, combine buttermilk and baking soda; mix well. Add to oil mixture, alternating with flour mixture. Add vanilla and vinegar; stir well. Pour into prepared pans.

Bake for 25–30 minutes.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine glaze ingredients. Bring to a boil. Remove cake pans from oven and spoon glaze over layers; allow to cool completely before removing from pan.

In a mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, butter, and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Gradually add confectioners' sugar and mix until smooth; add nuts. Frost cake layers and serve.

— Recipe provided by Valerie Danish

THE VICTORIA SAMPLER–DESIGNS BY CATHY JEAN
Olive Cheese Balls

1 c. grated Cheddar cheese
1/4 c. butter, softened
1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground paprika
Pinch of ground cayenne pepper
24 pimento-stuffed olives, patted dry

Preheat oven to 400°.

In a medium bowl, combine cheese, butter, flour, and spices; mix well. Wrap 1 tsp. of mixture around each olive and roll smooth in your hands. Place on a baking sheet.

Bake for 10–15 minutes.

— Recipe provided by Cathy Coombes

THE VICTORIA SAMPLER
Dutch Ginberbread Speculaas

1 c. unsalted butter, softened
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 c. sugar
1 1/4 c. firmly packed brown sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
3 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 tsp. ground cloves
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1/2 tsp. ground anise seed
1/8 tsp. salt
1/2 c. sliced almonds

In a large mixing bowl, combine butter, vanilla, and sugars; beat until light and fluffy. Add eggs and mix well.

In a large bowl, sift together flour, baking soda, spices, and salt; add to butter mixture and mix until combined. Fold in sliced almonds by hand, mixing carefully. Divide dough into four equal portions and chill overnight in refrigerator.

Preheat oven to 350°.

Roll chilled dough out into 1/4" thick portions and cut with cookie cutters (or shape with a Speculaas mold or other cookie mold or stamp).

Bake for 10–15 minutes and let cool before serving.

Makes three dozen.

— Recipe provided by Thea Dueck